

# 10,000 Maniacs, Tension

frail hinges pivot  
on a cases door  
commemorative  
souvenirs from places  
containers change  
with each occasion

cellophane encased  
displaying paper  
certificate  
credit years of service  
a tool of  
central enterprises

the early hope  
for permanence the  
words the rings  
consistency  
and social security the  
miracles high tragedy

a thought mistaken  
for a memory  
dress lengths  
assassinations  
fractured family ties  
christenings

local posts they  
list your friends  
in order of  
disappearance  
lawn scattered tins  
feed birds the  
portion baked for  
absent guests

mass edition icon  
god sent comfort is  
your salvation  
but who grants  
absolution for sins  
that never were committed

tension  
makes a tangle  
of each thought becomes  
inconvenience  
sound never penetrate  
as servile edges  
break and faint

a thought mistaken  
for a memory  
clear the dust from  
smiles in boxes  
cross a patterned floor  
recall the voices