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As I Was Once With You

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As I Was Once With You

Valerie Tapp

When I was with you
you took me for granted,
not knowing what you owed me
until I stepped away from you.

When I was with you
people stared as you entered a room
with my arm around your shoulder.
People watched you with envy
and you did not understand
why they hated you
and were waiting

to see the day
when you were jilted by me,
after the sting of my abandonment
shocked you down to you bones,
after the rage of regret
over wasted years was spent

your understanding has drowned you
in the waters of old age.
You remember me
as the greatest love you ever had,
I am the one that has left you wanting.

I hang on the shoulder
of someone else,
as you stare at us across
the smokey bar room of life,
the sweet drinks of ideals and high hopes
no longer being brought to your table,

instead the bitter beer of reality
and jaded views flow on your palate
and you try to swallow the pride
of knowing it was you
who wasted your time with me.
As I was once with you,
I am now with someone else.
I am youth.