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## Goodbye?

Gerald Ryan  
*College of DuPage*

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Ryan: Goodbye?  
**Goodbye?**

*Gerald Ryan*

Am I the pile of tired tapes,  
Scratchy records and stale books  
That are three for a buck in the yard sale?

Am I a tear when you hear someone sing our old song?

Am I the paintings and poems  
In the brown cardboard cartons  
Your new old man just wants to throw out?

Am I a stifled laugh at a joke that I once told?

Am I the worn shirts and shoes  
Stacked up high near the front door  
In paper bags for Goodwill to pick up?

Am I a necklace and ring in the back of a drawer?

Am I the catch in your voice  
When you chance upon a friend  
And explain how you just stopped loving me?

Or am I just a worn-out habit you gave up on?