

UNTITLED POEM

by Amber James

(from MASQUERADE '94)

*At first, there were only the whispers,
Hushed tones flowing into air,
Telling me tales of another life,
Of a different world, up there.
Yet here my days were numbered,
I walked each one, alone.
Here was all I could ever know,
A refuge safe, my home.
Within the hours of night Above,
I stole a glimpse or two,
Felt the grass beneath my feet,
Just as other men might do.*

*Often their cruelty shocked me,
I tasted then, their fear.
Knowing the shadows would hide me,
If they should venture near.
Their world, for me, held nothing,
Still something drew me there,
And often the warning came to me,
That I should take great care
When, the mystery of the city
Captured me, to be a part,
Of the compelling mighty beating,
I felt deep within its heart.*

*A sudden restlessness came over me,
On a dark and sleepless night.
An urgency I could not deny,
A demand I could not fight.
So, taking up my long, dark cloak,
I surrendered to what destiny planned,
And made another journey Above,
Obeying some unknown demand.
In the park their headlights glittered,
I sank into the shadows I knew,
Watching the ever nearing men,
Those who would lead me to you.*

*Heavy scents assaulted my nostrils,
Messengers of violence and death.
As they left me there in the silence,
I heard a faint, shuddering breath.
You lay there helpless, barely moving,
As death walked close, and so
Without a moment spared for thought,
I took you to safety Below.
And from that darkest of moments,
My life has been filled with light.
How could I have known, for me,
There would be a love so bright?*

*For three short years I knew you,
Our journey had only begun,
A man's greed took you from me,
And left me to care for our son.
But what of the future, Catherine,
Can I live, and once again start
To build life without my soul,
And flourish without a heart?
For you have taken them with you,*

*To where e're your rest is found.
Only that which is truly mortal,
Lies resting in the ground.*

*This love cannot die as we shall,
I feel its presence true,
It can never be taken from me,
Nor lost, whatever i do.
Time is all that stands between us,
Years destined to fade away,
Until I hear death's summons,
And willingly obey.
Then we shall be reunited,
For nothing can keep us apart,
You are my eternal destiny,
The guardian of my heart.*

*And we shall know forever,
Time then, will fade away,
As I reach out to take your hand,
In that bright and duskless day.
I shall see your soft eyes shining,
Touch the wondrous silk of your hair,
Love will guide us for all time,
There can be no parting there.
Together, in the sunlight
United, healed and whole,
We shall know the blessed unity,
Of one mind, one heart, one soul.*