

***Written in the Water ©Ann Dalton***

*From 'Irish Lifelines'*

*London Irish Women's Centre (2008)*

If I wrote these words in water,  
I could never hold onto them,  
You would never hear them,  
Save perchance in the whispering of the stream.

If only I were brave enough,  
To let each word just wash away,  
The moment it had been created.  
I could never cling onto them,  
You could never take them with you,  
Save perchance this water wet your skin.

So, what a lesson in bravery,  
To find myself sitting beside you,  
While your last breath hung in the air.  
I could not have taken it,  
Just as you could not have given it away,  
Save perhaps now in the whispering of the trees.

And my life is an empty vessel,  
But I keep filling it to the brim,  
With all these words and memories.  
If only I could just leave them  
Written in the water.