

Once Upon a Virgin

*First love,
The pleasure was yours for two nights and a day.
Like the stale taste of nicotine you stay
Long after the butt ends have been flicked away.
Because of the moment when you penetrated me
They tell me I shall never be free.
I' ll tell you what I've begun to see—
That moment swelled into a memory.
It's grown hard and it's entered me
And now it drives me continuously.
First love,
What do you have to say?
Do I still take your breath away?
Or does all this holding, grabbing, keeping
caressing, caring, missing, sleeping
Make you also want to flee
Run, jump... just to be
Once again quite free
From the giving and taking of virginity.*

Nandini Bedi