

SWEETER DAYS

All Words and Music © Kenny Karen

SOMEBODY'S CHILD

Words and Music by Kenny Karen

I climb the stairs
The second floor,
An answered prayer
An open door,
A warm embrace
A loving smile,
And I am still
Somebody's child.

His eyes are warm
His voice is strong,
Between the lines
Of mama's songs,
We live the years
We walk the miles,
And I am still
Somebody's child.

The room's filled with clutter and photographs,
The loneliness plays with his mind.
Pieces of memories lie torn in half,
Since he remained behind.

I touch his cheek
I take his hands,
It's time to go
He understands,
I watch his face
I read his eyes,
I hold him close
We kiss good bye.

He's in my heart
I'm in his smile,
I feel his love
And all the while
I know I'm still
Somebody's child.

MARNI'S GARDEN

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

As the morning casts its colors
The horizon greets the day,
Shades of apricot and gray caress the sky.
And I smile as I'm awakened
By a laughing child at play,
As forever passes right before my eyes.

And the children are the sunshine
And the children are the rain,
Both the pleasure and the pain live in my mind.
There is much I can't remember
There is much I can't explain,
There are dreams I've lost and dreams I hope
to find.

And each day I walk through Marni's Garden,
Through a world of nurturing and care.
As I walk away from Marni's Garden
I know tenderness and love are growing there.

I was empty when I met her
Out of hope and out of tears,
She was younger than my years
but knew of life.
We could laugh and cry together
And I learned to trust again,
As the best of friends we stood
as man and wife.

And we shared a new beginning
Turned our house into a home,
Then we stepped inside the world
we built as one.
One more chance at truly winning
One more race that must be run,
One more way to love the mother of my sons.

And each day I walk through Marni's Garden,
Through a world of nurturing and care.
As I walk away from Marni's Garden
I know tenderness and love are growing there.

THE YEARS YOU GAVE TO ME

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

I can almost see you
I can almost hear you
I can almost feel your smile
Melt the night into day.
There are things I couldn't say
'Cause the tears got in my way
Still I thank you for the years you gave to me.

I can almost touch you
I can almost hold you
I can almost wrap my arms
Around the days of our lives.
Each one sweeter than the last
But there's no future in the past
Still I thank you for the years you gave to me.

And the mem'ries fill my mind
Nothing's lost that I can't find
I just look inside my heart and see you there.

I can feel your breathing
Feel your body moving
I can almost kiss your eyes
And make the pain go away.
Still I'm richer for the time
That I lived to call you mine
So I thank you for the years you gave to me.

Oh, I thank you for the sweet love
you gave to me.

THE DAY I SET ASIDE

FOR LOVING HER

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

I look at the clock on the wall and it says it's a
quarter to five
Another few minutes or so to look into my
little girls eyes
Then I have to turn and walk away
But she just can't understand why I don't stay.

I tell her I'll come back to see her again in a
very short while
I'll bring her the doll that she asked me to buy
if she'll just try and smile
She asks me if I'm ever coming home
And if I miss her when I'm all alone.

It's the day I set aside for loving her
It's the day I set aside to be with my baby
It's my way of holding on to what I had before
Does the new life that I've chosen offer so
much more?
Still, I love her – They can't make a law to tell
me how much to love her
I just can't control the feeling that I must be
with her
When she needs me and when I need her.

She stands at the door with her arms open wide
and she's blocking my way
She says I don't want you to come back
tomorrow I want you today
I watch the little tears fall from her eyes
Oh God, have I the strength to say good-bye?

It's the day I set aside for loving her
It's the day I set aside to be with my baby
It's my way of holding on to what I had before
Does the new life that I've chosen offer so
much more?
Still, I love her -- They can't make a law to tell
me how much to love her
I just can't control the feeling that I must be
with her
When she needs me, and when I need her.

How many spring times will I stand between
two shadows
Who have spent their lifetimes holding on to
love that never goes away?
How many spring times will I cup your face in
my hands
Looking back at years I've wasted
And the little girl who begged me not to go.

WHENEVER LEAH SMILES

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

I stare at the ceiling, the floor and the walls
She pours us some coffee, makes a few calls
Then she enters the room and sits in her
favorite chair,
And I'm strong for the moment
For as long as she's there....

Whenever Leah smiles
The world's a safer place,
And I feel secure, I feel reassured
Just looking at her face.

She asks about today
And seasons long ago,
Do they take my mind somewhere back in time
Have I let them go?

And what about my dreams
Will some of them come true?
Have I conquered all my fears
Do I need to learn more from you?

She sees inside my heart
The grown-up and the child,
I am safe at home, I am not alone
Whenever Leah smiles.

And what about my dreams
Will some of them come true?
Have I conquered all my fears
Do I need to learn more from you?

How well I understand
The wisdom in her eyes,
As she takes my hand all that life demands
Is a kiss good bye.
Just knowing that she thinks of me
My life is more worthwhile
I am safe at home, I am not alone
Whenever Leah smiles.

Believing as I do, God is smiling too
Whenever Leah smiles.

ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

If I search my soul
If my dreams unfold
All the feelings I hold for my wife
Then in every phrase
I will sing her praise
She is loved all the days of her life.

Love secures, love sustains
Love endures, love remains
And in every phrase
I will sing her praise
She is loved all the days of her life.

Should my heart take flight
Soaring through the night
Would my mem'ries delight in their passing
There's much more to see
Spend your life with me
And I promise you love everlasting.

Love secures, love sustains
Love endures, love remains
And in every phrase
I will sing her praise
She is loved all the days of her life.

And in every phrase
I will sing her praise
You'll be loved all the days of your life.

WORDS FROM MAMA'S EYES

Words and Music by Kenny Karen

Sweetness and sorrow she wore with style
Yesterday's sadness, tomorrow's smile
Strength of conviction or helpless child
She would be all things to me.

Bridging the waters throughout her life
Mother and daughter and loving wife
Spoke with the softness of lullabies
Words from Mama's Eyes.

Chaimke, mein kind
I will watch over you
Chaimke, mein kind
No harm will come to you
Wherever you may be, I'll be with you
Chaimke, mein kind.

Standing beside her with watchful eye
Frail imitation of years gone by
Looking to heaven and asking why
Mournful sighs and last goodbyes.

Years entertain us and life goes on
Mem'ries sustain us when dreams have gone
Remembering with flowers and family ties
These words from Mama's Eyes.

Chaimke, mein kind
I will watch over you
Chaimke, mein kind
No harm will come to you
Wherever you may be, I'll be with you
Chaimke, mein kind.

Her legacy, her gift to me
These words from my Mama's Eyes.

A FATHER'S LOVE

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

As I wander through my memories
Where a dream was just a promise
Of the many sweet tomorrows
That would pass along the way.
In my mind I see a little girl
And a proud young man beside her
Now the hands that held that moment
Hold the magic of today.

'Cause a father's love never goes away
Though the test of time is measured
By the treasures I can hold
as long as I may live
Still a father's love is mine alone to give.

I can picture velvet dresses
And a baseball glove and sneakers
And a gentle smile that tells you
That a gentle soul lives here.
There were telephones and high school teams
Family plans and college dreams
Through the fantasy of childhood
Walks the woman of the year.

But a father's love never goes away
Though the test of time is measured
By the treasures I can hold
as long as I may live
Still a father's love is mine alone to give.

The orchestra is playing and the tears are
streaming down
As the little girl I cherish enters
in her wedding gown.

Yes a father's love never goes away
Though the test of time is measured
By the treasures I can hold
as long as I may live
Still a father's love is mine alone to give.

LENNY

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

We were children of believers
Of better days to come
The power of tomorrow in our hands,
We were dreamers then
And the dream had just begun
We could laugh at life and then begin again.

So I lived with my confusion
Through his comfort and his care
His laughing eyes and sensibility,
He's a gentle man
And his love was always there
And I knew that Lenny was a friend to me.

When he smiles her tenderness surrounds him
Pushing dreams away, living for today
When he cries she wraps her love around him
Memories remain, she's with him once again.

So we gather here together
Family and friends
To celebrate this special day in time,
Our affection, a reflection of the man
And I'm proud that Lenny is a friend of mine.

When he smiles her tenderness surrounds him
Pushing dreams away, living for today
When he cries she wraps her love around him
Memories remain, she's with him once again.

So we gather here together
Family and friends
To celebrate this special day in time,
Our affection, a reflection of the man
And I'm proud that Lenny is a friend of mine,
I'm so proud that Lenny is a friend of mine.

ALL THE TENDERNESS I FEEL

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

An empty sea of darkness watches over you
and me
The chilling air is blanketing my mind.
The morning mist implants a kiss on all of
Gods' creation
The moon and sun cross the dividing line.
I have tasted sweet tomorrow and embraced a
world that's real.
I've unlocked the gates and walked into the
garden
To all the tenderness I feel.

The breeze that once caressed the night is
whispering good-bye
As starlight fades into the shades of dawn.
The goal that once instilled my soul is reaching
out to hold me
I cannot be denied, I must hold on.
I've awakened to forever bearing dreams that
life concealed.
I've released the springs of love that flow
within me
And all the tenderness I feel.

I touch the hand that touches mine I kiss the air
you breathe
I stop the sands of time to watch you smile.
You are the God I worship you are all that I
believe in
You've made each day of loving you
worthwhile.
Oh, were I to be your shadow you would stand
and I would kneel.
In the mirrors of my mind I have become you
Through all the tenderness I feel –
All the tenderness I feel.

EVERYTHING YOU ARE

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

Should I take her hand
Should I say "you're lovely"
Would she understand
If all I did was stare in her eyes?
I could touch the stars
Or should I catch the mountains when they fall
All I'll ever need is everything you are.

Where was I before
Where was my life going?
Through some secret door
That carried me away from my dreams.
Everything I am
I am because you held me in your arms
And all I'll ever need is everything you are.

Everything you are to me
Everything I hoped love would be
Is written in your eyes
And in the way you wear your smile.

Could I let you go
Could I live without you
Could a flower grow
If all the sun were taken away?
Everything I need
Is wrapped around the love I feel for you
Everything I am and all I hope to be
Is here with everything you are
When you are with me.
'Cause everything you are is what love means
to me.

SWEETER DAYS

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

There will be sweeter days
There will be better times
There will be songs to sing and joy to bring
And children dancing forever.
There will be you and I
There will be days gone by
And if you close your eyes and touch my hand
Then I'll be standing there with you.

So never go away
Never say good bye
Someday the tears will dry
Then you and I can face tomorrow.
Just hold me and tell me that love never dies
There will be sweeter days and happy times
again.

There will be sweeter days
There will be better times
There will be warm Julys and summer skies
And moments lasting forever.
And we'll be young again
And we will dream again
And I will call your name and see your smile
And my heart will caress you.

So never go away
Never say good bye
Someday the tears will dry
Then you and I can face tomorrow.
Just hold me and tell me that love never dies
There will be sweeter days and happy times
again.

LIFE BEGINS AGAIN

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

Look at her standing there, so pretty, so happy
Wandering through a world of silk and lace.
Flowers caress her hair and
petals kiss the morning
Dancing around the smile that fills her face.

And now, life begins again
As love captures all its glory.
And in our hearts we've found a story
That will never end,
As life begins again.

Look at the man I've known, so youthful,
so daring
Challenging all the dreams he hopes to find.
Happiness is a home with love
that's warm and caring
Driving away the shadows from your mind.

And now, life begins again
As love captures all its glory.
And in our hearts we've found a story
That will never end,
As life begins again.

How did it come to pass
The poetry, the violins,
the mist upon the grass,
The gifts of spring.
And what is ours today
The chance to say we lived to touch tomorrow,
To share tomorrow.

And now, life begins again
As love captures all its glory.
And in our hearts we've found a story
That will never end,
As life begins again.

GOODNIGHT

Words & Music by Kenny Karen

Now that we've strolled through the years
Drifted through laughter and tears,
Pictures were painted and poems read
Spring-fed souvenirs.

Innocence sheds its disguise
Revealing the truth though my eyes,
So 'til tomorrow when darkness
gives way to the light
Thank you all and goodnight.

Curtain's down, the end of the show
Turn around, where did it all go?...

So, I take off my jacket and tie
Reminiscing and kissing good bye,
God's in his heaven and
everything seems just right
Thank you all and goodnight.
'Til the next time, sweet dreams and goodnight