

Ashleigh Mitnick

ENGL 1191

Daniella Castillo Vasquez

14 April, 2026

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/1779556/asking-for-directions>

Rewritten (Villanelle Form)

I stood there still the end already done,
Your face behind the glass, unread, unknown,
A woman now, with nowhere left to run.

We spoke in quiet tones before the sun,
With time so brief, yet heavier than stone,
I stood there still, the end already done.

You left as planned; departure had begun,
No gesture left, no warmth in what was shown,
A woman now, with nowhere left to run.

The vest you gave me weighed more than a ton,
A memory stitched where love had once been sewn,
I stood there still, the end already done.

No proof remained except that fleeting one:
Two empty faces neither claimed nor owned,
A woman now, with nowhere left to run.

And after all, I carried what was gone,
Asking for roads to places overthrown-
I stood there still, the end already done,
A woman now, with nowhere left to run.

Revised:

I stood stagnant - everything was done,
Your face through glass, erased of what we'd known -
A woman now, nowhere left to run.

Morning came fast, we outran the sun,

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An hour collapsing,
I stood still - everything was done.

You stepped away; ; leaving had begun,
No final word, no claim to what we'd grown -
A woman now, with nowhere left to run.

The vest you gave me carried more than one small history of love,
I stood unmoving - everything was done.
That single glance, the only certain one,
Still proves a love no longer ever shown -
A woman now, with nowhere left to run.

I turned away,
And asked for roads to places I'd outgrown -
I stood unmoving - everything was done,
A woman now, with nowhere left to run.

Reciting original:

We could have been mistaken for a couple
Riding on the train
I recall looking out the window,
At the beauty outside.

I slept across his chest,
They were the last hours,
I woke up

You said to go back to sleep,
I said we only have short time left,
Not much said after that.

You had ten minutes to leave,
We looked at each other with no expression,
Goodbyes were said.