

She Needs Me

George and Irma

James Gregory Maynard

It began with a clumsy kiss

Chuckled did I

Cried did she

Wanting

To impress me

Still young

And chaste

Explained

Did she

Her story to me

Remember

In class

You asked

Why I punched Billy Mumphy

She asked of me.

I do

I said

But what's to do with this?

He copped a feel

You see

Tears still falling

She stares at me

At age eleven

Mother's friend

Battered and violated

This body

With savage degree

For the first time

Her lips reveal to me.

She crushed him

With vengeance

Swearing

No man's hand

Allowed to be,

On her

Until now

With me

Remembrance

Shatters her spirit

Shaking

She lay

On my chest

And knee

Like a child

Curled onto me

Bent

But not broken

Her pain

Awoken

She murmurs

'Hold me'

More than ever

I realize

She needs me