And Now Go

Driving north on Highway 1

the Sonoma Coast

and nearly 2 hours past the city, I'm approaching

a construction delay

Nearly one whole year since

we've spoken & still

so many of the songs are about you

who only loved me when you were

drunk

or lonely

But that wasn't a place I could livein your dark shadow inside a secret

Four years ago I surrendered

to my own dark

emotions & maybe I didn't

know it at the time

But it was just a coincidence

that brought us back

together as if 25 years rewound

as if we could remake

the decisions that separated us

Outside my window, the cows just

lay down in the meadows &

there's no rain

storms brewing, not even a cloud

in the sky. Nothing

No old wives' tales

to explain it away.

The cows are just tired.

And you've always been afraid to love me

even if I might have been the one

even if you spent 25 years

--according to you--

thinking of me

which I take to mean that your wife was not sexually adventurous

Tell me again

just like all the other married men

How your wife doesn't like oral

How you just want to try anal

And I'll tell you what. For a long time

I believed the secret

to the best relationship was the best blowjob

This wasn't quite what my Gramma meant but almost. She said, "Sometimes you gotta dress up & give 'em what they want."

I'm squinting into the reflected sun, trying not to miss my turn onto

Timber Cove Road.

This tactic didn't work for me. The give sometimes felt more

like take

Suddenly, "I Will Survive" roars
from the radio
and Gloria Gaynor belts out
a message that makes
much more sense:

"Now I'm saving all my lovin' for someone who's lovin' me."