

AT FIRST GLANCE

By
Carol L Bluestein

At first glance:
too short, too tall,
too thin, too fat,
too big, too small --
How do I measure up?

At second glance:
too smart, too dumb,
too aware, too naïve,
too rational, too absurd --
How am I doing now?

At dinner:
too confident, too scattered,
too assertive, too passive,
too insightful, too blasé --
I'm not sure which way to go?

By desert:
too rich, too poor,
too funny, too dense,
too hurt, too eager --
I can't tell and by now, I don't care.

At first glance, in no time at all,
We know what's wrong and why it won't work.
In the seconds that follow, we prove we're right,
Aiding and abetting our own isolation.
And, the funny thing is, I keep hoping that I'm wrong.

At first glance:
amusing, sexy,
warm, vivacious,
attractive and adoring --
Easily recognized -- at someone else's side.