

# A Shovel Is a Prayer

Carrie Newcomer

A shovel is a prayer  
To the farmer's foot  
When he steps down  
And the soft earth gives way  
A baby is a prayer  
When it's finally asleep  
A whispered, "Amen"  
At the end of the day

And a friend is a prayer  
When they bring over soup  
When they laugh at your jokes  
And they don't ask for proof  
It's a song that you sing  
When you are alone  
When you're weary or lonely  
Or that far from home

For all your searching  
There's nothing to do  
What you've been looking for  
Is looking for you

I'm the prodigal daughter  
You're the dissonant son  
We've been washed in rainwater  
We're the fortunate ones  
On the other side of midnight  
Just before the dawn  
You can feel it coming up  
When the long night is done

It's as heavy as grief

And it's weightless as smoke  
It's the dream you forgot  
It's the letter you wrote  
It's the first birds of morning  
That sound like a hymn  
Throw open the windows and  
Let the light in

I'm a wayfaring stranger  
You're Indiana Jones  
We are Gracie and George  
We're Watson and Holmes  
The air is filled with angels  
There's no devil to outrun  
Just sigh and kiss the ground  
When the long night is done

It's a collar turned up  
A kiss on the forehead  
A string and two cans  
It's the last thing you said  
It's a hunch that you follow  
A light in the dark

An idiot check

It's a balm for your heart  
For all you searching  
There's nothing to do  
What you've been looking for  
Is looking for you