THE RAPE VICTIM'S EVENING PRAYER

Now I lay me down to sleep,
of my gender with Pride I cannot speak.
What was once a fabric,
is now a thread.
I fear for my safety, my life, the bed.
Said the maggot to the guy,
"Why?"
"Why?"
"Why?"
"As that night turned into day,
did you choose me for your very next lay?"
This monster who was once a boy,
came to steal, kill, and destroy.
I begged and screamed for you to stop,
I lost the battle, I am woman, a have-not.
Assaulted and ashamed, in secret I must suffer,
drugs and alcohol are now my silent butler.
What was Pretty in pink, innocent and sweet,
now human excrement at your feet.
I live and breathe this sentence you bestowed,
to anything feminine, I am widowed.
Now I lay me down to sleep,
I'll dream of survival and defeat,
of the Phoenix rising from a charring pit,
to perch upon you head,
and take a healthy shit...

Stephanie M. Florio 12/10/03