

## Rubicon

Peter Hammill

I lay down beside you : I am a unicorn, you a virginal maid,  
and I come in laughing play ----  
but, maybe, to be saved.  
Peer through the backcloth : I am a character in the play,  
the words I slur are pre-ordained ----  
we know them anyway.  
Don't change your mind, don't be a fickle friend;  
don't change your mind, don't pretend  
                    to something false.  
Open the toy-box : you are Pandora, I am the World.  
If you cross the stream, you never can return;  
If you stay, you'll surely burn.  
Don't change your mind, don't come all orchid eyes;  
don't change your mind, don't disguise the fear  
                    you feel :  
it's real, and you must  
guard your castle well, for I am the lone wolf,  
                    and the boar at bay -----  
grant me your Pax, you know we only live today,  
and on, and on, and into :  
"so Long" -- it takes so long to drown;  
it takes so very long to choke on the taste you'd spurned.  
If you cross the stream you never can return;  
If you stay you'll surely burn.