

# Poetry Porch: Poetry

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**If . . .**

By Helen Heineman

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If I could only say  
all you have meant  
to me in one sentence,  
my companion of so many days,  
and warm lover on cold nights,  
people might say  
it was trite, or sentimental,  
or they'd ask me  
to consider whether  
I'd ever been undervalued,  
or if I'd told the whole truth,  
omitting quarrels,  
disagreements, and failures,  
and then, even using  
a metaphor to explain  
the mysterious mixture  
that makes a marriage,  
I'd still disappoint,  
for the average reader  
had been expecting  
something more dynamic  
and truly interesting,  
as a breakup, for example,  
would surely have been.