

A Lament For Birds That Wait

By Judith Taylor

They live their lives alone
in cages in darkened rooms,
their bodies and hearts shattered
by people who care so little
about them.

With no food, no water, no love
they live in loneliness;
hoping in vain for some kindness
and release from their pain,
the little birds wait.

How much would it cost
to provide what they need?

Love costs nothing,
good food and fresh water
little more than that.

They wonder what they have done,
why they are beaten and abused.
With crippled feet and mutilated bodies
starved for sustenance and love,
the little birds wait.

