

In P. Papky, Ed. (2006), *THE BERRIES ARE SWEETER HERE: OLDER WOMEN WRITING TOGETHER*. McMaster Centre for Gerontological Studies: Hamilton ON.

I Think I Will Live Forever

I think I will live forever.
Not really, I just pretend.
The birch tree will always sway in the wind.
The amaryllis will stand straight.
The tulips will come up.
The clouds and sunrise will always be there.

I won't give away
Grandmother's blue bowl,
remembering golden corn steaming in it.
I'll keep the children's drawings.
I won't discard old letters.
I'll cherish them
because I will need them,
because I will live forever.

I'll make a will
and make arrangements,
and then forget them.
What do they have
to do with me,
because I'll live forever.

I'll buy new books
and keep the old ones.
I'll read as long as I can see.
And when I can't
I'll say to myself,
The Lord is my Shepherd.
I'll try to say
This is the day which the Lord has made
I will rejoice and be glad in it.

I will live, but maybe not forever.

Naomi Wingfield