

FOR DANNY
By Nadina LaSpina

stronger than love
this bond
welded
in a flame
of tenderness and rage

indissoluble
we are one
how many million strong

our wheelchairs locked in
an endless embrace
each kiss a proclamation
of cripple beauty
and power and pride

stronger than intimacy
this closeness
of spastic limbs
and missing parts

each touch a revelation
each pounding of the heart
a celebration

how warm and delicious
this freedom
after centuries of oppression

stronger than all desire
this hunger
this desperate searching of my hand
for your soul
this longing for your tongue
on my scars
this yearning to heal
all the wounds
of our people

insatiable as the need
to hold you inside me

unbearable as the burden

of shared history

whose pain, whose ecstasy
am i touching
mine yours theirs ours

stronger than passion
this fire
this melting of flesh and of fears

wild crippled bodies
rising
out of the deep
dungeons of pity

miraculous
shameless explosion
of infinite joy

Aug. 12, 1993

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