

## Excerpt from the book, *Know That You Have Been Loved* (poems) by Elonda Clay

### Know That You Have Been Loved

Sweet precious child in my arms  
I'll sway you into sleep.  
Your breath so lightly  
on my heart,  
Makes this life complete.

Small wondering one running  
through the grass,  
I'll try to guide your step.  
Life's little questions on your lips,  
Shows me how I've been blessed.

So I tell you from the very start you  
have been given love.

I stored into your mind  
a love for beautiful things.  
You gave me pride and joy,  
I reluctantly gave you wings.

Sweet growing seed, open up and  
see what life's all about.  
When you feel pressed from all  
around,  
Let God's wisdom be your way out.

Oh my dear, from the beginning  
I have taught you love.

When you had your own children  
be them boys or girls,  
My smile was surely the biggest one  
welcoming them to this world.

I celebrated your first gray hair,  
which to me meant you finally  
gained  
a strength and courage to call your  
own.  
Through the years, one thing hasn't  
changed.

Well,  
I hope that by now honey you have  
seen love in action.

Now the scene is turned around  
in your rocking arms I rest.  
Run your fingers through these soft,  
white hairs  
and my smile will tell you

"Yes, oh sweet baby of mine,  
know that you have been loved."

### Happy

The wind sculpts my hair  
with invisible fingers  
into curls of chaos  
I refuse to touch.

Freestyle, my thoughts sway  
like the leaves when nature breathes  
on each branch.

I store up the sun's warmth on my  
face  
and shield my joy  
from the cold of the world.

I dance,  
like the yellow leaves of autumn.  
I float,  
like dandelions in spring.  
I play,  
like the dark, tan children of  
summer.  
And in the winter of my years  
I sing!  
I sing!