

I Stayed Until I Didn't

He hit me once,
 Stunned, I could not believe
The man who was my protector,
 Would intentionally hurt me.
So, I stayed.

He hit me the second time,
 And I thought maybe I should leave,
But he whispered he was sorry,
 And he didn't mean to hurt me.
So, I stayed.

He hit me again,
 This would be his third hit,
I knew he loved me,
 And one day, he would quit.
So, I stayed.

He hit me again, and again, and again,
 And I totally lost count.
I made excuses for his acts,
 I believed our love would surmount.
So, I stayed.

He whispered he loved me,
 He was sorry and showed great
remorse.
I whispered I loved him too,
 and I forgave him, of course.

He hit me another time,
 I thought I was dying,

He clung to my arm,
 begging and crying.
So, I stayed.

I prayed to God,
 I searched for the stars in the sky,
I wondered if this was the right kind of love,
 If he was the right kind of guy.
But I stayed.

He hit me the last time,
 That night, as I recall.
It was a cold, dark evening,
 I felt weak, and I felt small.

I knew I had to leave him,
 I had to make a change in my life,
I couldn't be his love any longer,
 It didn't matter if I was his wife.

Again, he whispered he loved me,
 He was sorry and showed great
remorse.
I whispered I love him too,
 But I must remove myself from this
life course.

So, I didn't stay.
 But I did cry.
And today I am still living,
to tell you I left, and now you know why.