

Poem and commentary: “wild cactus dancer”

by Rick Belden

The poem below is from part three (“intimacy and illusion”) of my second book [*Scapegoat’s Cross: Poems about Finding and Reclaiming the Lost Man Within*](#). It didn’t take me long to write this one, but it took me about fifteen years to get ready to write it.

wild cactus dancer

*wild cactus dancer
fiery blue-eyed imp
queen of the temper tantrum
treehouse nature girl.*

*stubborn and impatient
breasts like perfect teardrops
voracious wounded heart
swinging from man to man.*

*my love for you was animal fierce
and gravity absolute
 heart love
 brain love
 beast love
 soul love
you had me all the way
my life was bound to yours
every cell in my body
 ate and drank and wept and slept with you
you swept through me like a blizzard
I wanted no one else.*

*I knew you before I knew you
we gave birth to one another
we howled together on hillsides in the dark
we flowed out of volcanoes hand in hand
 burning everything in our path
 merging and cooling
into lakes of glassy black diamonds.*

*I would’ve stood in the sun for you
 until I burst into flames
I would’ve stood in the wind for you
 until I was blown to pieces
but it wasn’t enough.*

*someone put a little black hole in your heart
I thought I could fill it up
I tried but I couldn't
you needed more than I could give you
you could never believe that I loved you
no matter what I said
no matter what I did
you never knew
how completely
I adored you.*

To watch my video readings of "wild cactus dancer" and other poems, visit my YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/rickbeldenpoet>.

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Rick Belden is a respected explorer and chronicler of the psychology and inner lives of men. His book, [Iron Man Family Outing: Poems about Transition into a More Conscious Manhood](#), is widely used in the United States and internationally by therapists, counselors, and men's groups as an aid in the exploration of masculine psychology and men's issues, and as a resource for men who grew up in dysfunctional, abusive, or neglectful family systems. His second book, [Scapegoat's Cross: Poems about Finding and Reclaiming the Lost Man Within](#), is currently awaiting publication. He lives in Austin, Texas.

More information, including excerpts from Rick's books, is available on his [website](#) and [blog](#). You can also find him on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).