

mercy

I see them now in their wedding photos
so young and full of hope
I want to love them as they are
not as I wanted them to be.

I've lived long enough now
to know what it's like to make a mistake because
you're tired
or frustrated about another lost day
spent under someone else's heel
or so hungry for love that you can't think straight
or because
you don't know any better
or think it won't matter later
or think you can fix it later.

I understand
the law of unintended consequences
I know how it feels when every passing day reminds you that
you're not gonna live forever
I know how it feels when you realize that
most of your life is gone
and people you knew and loved are gone
I know what it's like to see
how much you've thrown away
and to realize that what you've lost
is gone forever.

I want to love them as they are
not as I wanted them to be
I want to forgive them
for being who they are
and who they were
I want to forgive them
for not being what I needed
and still need
I want to give them
what I want for myself
I want to free them
before it's too late.