

I leave my seat to avoid you
And stand for the rest of the ride.
I pretend to look at my phone.
I put headphones in with no music.

At the restaurant, I sit with my back to the wall.
I look down at my plate when I eat.
People stare at me because I'm alone.
You sit down at my table.
I get the rest of my food to go.

I smile a little when I pass you.
I don't want you to get angry,
But I don't want you to feel invited, either.
So I walk as though I'm running late.

I pull my hood over my head when I'm out at night.
I wear oversized clothing.
I feel your eyes on me as I walk by.
I feel them on me as I walk away.
I get shouted at from passing cars.

I check my surroundings before unlocking my house.
I keep the blinds and windows closed.
When the doorbell rings, I stay quiet.
I lock the bathroom when I shower.
I had a deadbolt installed on my bedroom door so I could sleep at night.

I hold my keyboard stand like a weapon.
I listen for footsteps behind me.
You offered to take me to my car,
But I think that would've been worse.
I walk quickly through the parking lot.
I drive away before I put my seatbelt on.

I give my number out for a gig.
I get photographs instead.
I agree to a play a few shows with you.
You ask me out after each one.
I get yelled at for leading you on.

I used my house for a rehearsal,
And now you show up uninvited.
I feel my space closing in on me
As I navigate around you.
My thoughts are infiltrated by you

As I try to disarm the situation.
I can't afford to lose any more work.

You avoid me now
Because I'm too easily offended.
You were just having fun.
Again, I take the hit for your hurt feelings.
I decide it's not worth it anymore.
I move away.

You ignore me for years
And then ask me how I'm doing.
You can't believe it's been so long.
You ask me for a favor
And get angry when I don't respond
Because I guess I still owe you something.