

1992

# The Endangered: New and Selected Poems

Bennie Lee Sinclair

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## Recommended Citation

Sinclair, Bennie Lee, "The Endangered: New and Selected Poems". *Ninety-Six Press*. Full Cost Analysis Learning Module (1992).  
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## Going Blind

First, footnotes slide like tears  
from the page. Next, the smaller creatures—  
birds, mice—disappear. Then, most amazing,  
friends' faces; a loved one's hands.

In the back of the eye, blood  
collects, a dark shadow. Hospital, pain . . .  
What does it matter, Eliot's bank's address,  
a scurrying blur, tanager's flame?

Yet, last, anything worth a try:  
surgeon's knife, laser's beam, a Gypsy's  
casting of cards, palms;

even prayer.

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