

9-11: New York by Barbara Findley Stuart

The sunlit towers soar--  
trim, pristine, powerful--  
sheltering  
mothers...husbands  
sisters...sons  
here from home  
to transact  
the world's business.

Now,  
in a searing instant  
of hate-fueled inferno,  
these thousands,  
these beloved innocents,  
vanish into thundering clouds  
of ash  
and released spirit.

The towers dissolve  
before our eyes.  
Only anguish remains.

For this brutal holocaust,  
endless horror;  
For these fragile ashes,  
tears that burn;  
For these vanished souls,  
our emptiness.

9-11: *Pennsylvania* by Barbara Findley Stuart

Four silver planes,  
giant bullets  
bearing fiery destruction,  
streak through sunny skies,  
captured by fierce hatred  
secretly targeting  
freedom,  
targeting the flawed, free people  
leading America.

These four planes carry  
businessmen,  
technicians,  
mothers with children,  
flying  
to attend meetings,  
see a new baby,  
or just come back home.

Ordinary, everyday people-  
not soldiers,  
not trained rescuers  
pledged to sacrifice-  
just ordinary people  
pledged to love their family,  
pledged to love their freedom,  
pledged to love.

Now on one plane of the four--  
one plane  
flying above the hills  
of Pennsylvania--  
now these ordinary people  
know their mission,  
know horror,  
know they are a living weapon  
aimed at the heart of America  
aimed at the government  
of, by, and for the people,  
aimed at the people chosen by vote,

gathered at the capitol  
to govern us.

These ordinary people  
now lean on their love,  
searching among themselves  
for a plan,  
calling their loved ones to say,

*Goodbye.*

*I love you.*

*Remember me.*

*Not much time.*

*We're going to vote.*

*Goodbye.*

*I love you.*

These ordinary people  
pledged to love,  
pledged to freedom,  
these ordinary Americans  
now vote,  
vote to unite,  
vote to rush to meet fiery death,  
vote to rescue  
our government.

A shout goes up,  
“Let’s roll!”

And the phones go silent.  
There is no greater love  
than this:  
to give our lives for freedom;  
to give our lives  
for love.