

THE PACT

**If only I kept my word!
If only I followed through!
If only I were the lover I could have been!
If only I were the father I might have been!
If only I were the academic I was meant to be!
If only I were thin enough!
If only I were big enough!
If only I were smart enough!
If only I could be who I'm not,
Then sleep would be mine.
Ruinous ruminations, be gone!
Sleep, so essential and restorative,
Without which all that I wish for
Remains just that – an inaccessible wish,
A craving unsatisfied!
Sleep, so elusive!
Seemingly captured, yet never caught!
Sleep shall be a shadow,
Taunting me with its magnificent powers,
But never touching me whole.
I must have broken the pact.
How else to explain my sleepless nights
And groggy days?**