

# Come To Us

by [Cristina Nehring](#) (March 2024)



Marie Joséphine Charlotte du Val d'Ognes, by Marie Denise Villers, 1801

**It's all** a fake  
I cannot make  
A life without liquor.

It's like dancing without music;  
It's like singing without notes.  
I love my child

I love my man  
Too far away  
And with too many priorities

Thousands of miles separate us  
Los Angeles to Paris  
He visits me sometimes

My girl and myself.  
But it is not enough.  
My heart aches

My frame quakes  
And yet he will not come.  
His family is huge

Mine is small  
My mother across the ocean  
My wordless girl

At my side.  
She's a pleasure  
But no measure

For a man I can talk to  
And with whom I can share my pains  
And my joys

We are not merely toys  
We are beings with needs  
And a load of love to offer

Please, my two darlings,  
Let's come together  
And deal with foul and fair weather.

Together we're stronger  
And will surely live longer  
Than if we stay separate.

Love, come join your girls,  
We're full of whirls  
And twirls

We want only you  
To take into our arms  
No alarms, no more liquor  
Just bliss.

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**Cristina Nehring** published *The Child Who Never Spoke: 23 1/2 Lessons in Fragility* on October 24, 2023. She is also the author of *A Vindication of Love* which made the front page of the *New York Times Book Review* as well as of two books in French. She writes for the *Atlantic*, *Harper's*, the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. She lives in Paris with her daughter.

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