



and that was impossible  
because  
he had only  
glanced at the written words  
for only a few seconds  
before going on....

## IRENE 2

I was supposed to  
meet up with Irene  
the next day  
and there was a thaw  
in the ice and snow  
all melting at the corner  
and when  
I stepped out  
to cross over  
the water  
sloshed into my boots  
and  
when I got to Irene's  
she was not there

no note  
no message on my cell

I had canceled on an audition  
because I was  
so eager  
to see her

## IRENE 3

I did not see  
Irene  
again  
for about two years  
and when I did  
it was by accident  
and she had changed so much

she looked healthy

but had on a lot of makeup  
and blue hair

it was at a party  
where there was loud music  
and voices

she kept asking me  
how I was  
and what I'd been up to  
and it wasn't until  
after she had left

that I realized that it was Irene

I never saw her again  
after that