Denial / Mask of Glass

It's an easy thing to do, To go on pretending. My life is all about pretending. Pretending I'm happy, Pretending I'm in control. How can pretending you love me Be any different? It's a cruel thing, And I do it to myself. I put on my mask of glass To protect me from too much truth. And then the day comes inevitably When truth comes too close, Trying too hard to make me see What I've contentedly been ignoring. As if hit with a right cross, My mask shatters on my face, Scarring my cheeks And blinding me with reality. What can I do?—It's too much!— Except to grope around the floor at my feet, Cutting hands besides, searching For the slivers of my mask, Trying to glue them back together Through my tears of blood. Things will never be the same Even though I go on denying. Reality, it hurts too much. At least behind my mask No one can see me cry.

Betsy McCall Page 1