

A promise made

Not if when, it's

Dark and wet

Joss Naylor I'll not forget

Loweswater touched and off we set

A red jacket to follow

Pushing up the climb

Hard-hitting wind and down on time

No sliding down the rock-strewn grime.

Reeds of Ennerdale and sodden dogs

A heathery trudge across the bogs

Haycock style and grass wind-bent

Daylight eases the jarred descent.

Wast Water morning feeling light

Giggling Alley's angel delight.

Brightness in the spats of rain

Trot on road – time to gain.

Newfield Inn – cheery smiles

Powerful blows for the next few miles

Rocky ledge, mine below, water edge

With gentle flow down to Coniston

Here we go.

Sludge, slide, sink

Esthwaite drink

Setting sun on the brink

Grasmere, Rydal, the Lake we think.

Christmas lights of Ambleside

The waning energy is hard to hide

Friends that keep me on the go

I need to eat that I know.

Skeggles bog, windy climb

Energy low it's grinding time

Small, Hawes, Blea nicely done

Wind in face ... now it's fun.

Hartsop van try to eat

2 new friends to gladly greet

Try to run... stomach turns

Empties out and belly burns.

Walking now and feeling slow

Not if when! Come on! Time to go!

Sweet or salty take your pick

Really bored of feeling sick

Then a turn too quick,

In vegetation's grip

Phew! Saved from an accidental trip.

One last drag up Stick's Pass  
You know you've got this: Hard Ass  
Ice cold, steep and bitter blinding,  
On and on the hill keeps winding  
Snow-capped top and Charlie's grinning  
I feel it now "The end's beginning"

Thirlmere in the dark of night  
Two gates to choose but only one right  
Deep swamp, bog, fallen trees,  
Crawling through mud above knees  
Not the way you choose to take  
But what a great memory it did make.

Pushing on to Lake Bass now  
Have to get there; don't know how  
Heavy legs, weighted lids, unresisted slumber  
Ally, inane chatter; one becomes a number  
A tiny crowd of less than ten  
To witness not if but when  
If not but when and while he slept  
A promise made, a promise kept.