

From Syllable to Sonnet

For Jackie, who will never read it

Love. That's how you ended. How I must begin
(Beginning already to move towards the end).
Your letter, undated, arrived in the Mail today
With *Time Magazine*, a note from New Jersey Bell
Saying "If paid already disregard this Notice ..."
(Otherwise, pay up - or else - within the time prescribed).

Jackie, you've reached Time's terminal. No long-distance calls
Will reach you now. No editorial expertise
Acclaim how licking that envelope, you licked death.
And licked time also. *Not to be mailed till later.*
- Your envelope-directive. Your mock-heroic Postscript
Regret that you "still hadn't had that Skin-Tattoo
From *Sailor Eddie*". - We'd laughed about that in Philly.
A year ago when you first had your Cobalt Therapy.