

FRIEND OF MY LIFE

for Elizabeth

SONNETS OF THE NEW YEAR

That puts away the fever
& makes for better music
instantly you know why you
hadn't thought of it before
such an obvious solution to
the ills of matrimony plus
what a relief to find true
to the original situation
not just children grown-
ups too need orders for
then if the plan fails
still the same old fight
goes on without trying to
please my free style either.

Gloucester January 19 - February 4 1974

JOHN CLARKE