

**AN IMAGINARY AFFAIR:
Poems Whispered to Neruda
by Diana Raab
EXCERPT**

Please Don't Forget Me

I want you to know
one thing:

if there is ever a day
when you begin to think
about my place in this world
and if I could live without you —

stop in your tracks,
and look the imprints
your feet made in the sand
where you and I walked together
arm in arm, side by side
shoulder touching shoulder.

You are ingrained in my brain
like every kernel of sand
that lies beside the largest ocean
in this world where we inhabit
two sides familiar, yet foreign
to one another. But, in the end,

I had to let you go: when you love
someone it's what one must do —
set them free to do what they need
or want, and when they want

to do it, whether it is with you or not—
while always keeping in mind
I will never in my lifetime or yours
stop loving everything about you.