

**Ben Sweatman**

**Parent's Pledge**

I dare you to dream  
    To be what you will  
To spread wide your wings  
    And fly far away  
Mock malignant misgivings  
    Embrace the thrill  
Callous time relents not  
    Don't waste a day.

Listen to your heart  
    Wherever it leads you  
It could be the start  
    Your own wonderful  
Slips and stumbles happen  
    Hearts don't always speak true  
Triumph doesn't always trumpet  
    But the journey's never dull.

Cynical voices proclaim  
    A fool she dives straight in  
A wise girl will await awhile  
    And ponder where to tread  
But I have to say to you  
    Being foolish isn't a sin  
Persevere. Learn from your mistakes  
    Attack what lies ahead.

I am the devoted springboard  
    Prepared for your launch  
And the abiding platform  
    To nurture all repair  
In times of trouble  
    I will remain staunch  
Forever with you  
    I will always be there.

Dizzying heights and turbulent troughs  
    You can face them all with me  
Supportive and steadfast, I'll always remain  
    Your blanket, your rock, your safe place to be.