

THE UNKNOWING (SUSAN'S STORY) (ANYBODY'S STORY)

JUST A MOMENT IN TIME IN WARMING SUNSHINE
PEOPLE AROUND WERE TALKING, LAUGHING, WALKING, STOOD,
TRAFFIC WHINED AND GROANED
THIS WAY, THAT WAY ALONG THE ROAD AND THINGS WERE GOOD. ---

--- EXCEPT WHAT FILLED SUE'S MIND, AN UNREALITY OF
QUESTIONS ASKED, OF DOUBTS, OF FEARS, AN "UNKNOWING!",
HER BODY FELT DISCOMFORT
UP HERE, DOWN THERE, HER ANXIETY WAS FORGIVABLY GROWING.

THE HOSPITAL WAS BUSY, PEOPLE GOING IN, COMING OUT,
TO SEE THOSE COMING OUT EASED HER APPREHENSION —
FROM THE TESTS ENDURED, RESULTS TO BE REVEALED,
GOOD NEWS! BAD NEWS! THOSE PEOPLE COMING OUT SHOWED LITTLE TENSION

HER DOCTOR SHOOK HER HAND, SHE SAT, HE SPOKE,
"SORRY, THE TESTS CONFIRMED LYMPHOMA, A CANCER OF THE BLOOD,"
SHE CAUGHT HER BREATH, HE FELT HER FEAR,
THIS TIME, ANY TIME, THERE WAS NO TIME FOR THIS NEWS TO BE GOOD.

"AT LAST," SHE SAID, "YOU'VE TAKEN THAT 'UNKNOWING' FROM MY MIND
BUT WHAT I'D REALLY LIKE TO SAY IS UNREPEATABLE!"
HE SMILED AND SAID, "I'D FEEL THE SAME BUT
GOOD CARE, THE RIGHT CARE MAKES YOUR PROBLEM TREATABLE."

HIS NEWS HAD PLACED THE SUN BEHIND A CLOUD
WHICH STAYED THROUGHOUT HER TREATMENT, AS IT MIGHT,
THE SIDE-EFFECTS FROM CHEMO PRODUCED A NEW "UNKNOWING"
UP-BEAT, DOWN-BEAT, HER DOCTOR JUDGED THINGS RIGHT, BUT HOW RIGHT?

CHEMO FINISHED, STEROIDS OVER, RITUXIMAB DONE, YEARS HAVE PASSED,
STILL, HER DOCTOR WATCHES CLOSELY, HER WELFARE NOW HIS MISSION,
THREE MONTHS, SIX MONTHS, TWELVE MONTHS, SHE MUST STAY PATIENT,
CROSSING FINGERS, CROSSING TBES UNTIL HE SAYS TO HER, "REMISSION",

AND STILL THERE ARE ODD FEELINGS YEARS GONE, BACK HOME,
THINGS NOT TO TROUBLE A DOCTOR WITH, BUT THERE!,
SHE JOINED A GROUP WHOSE MEDICINE WAS TALK AND LOTS OF LAUGHTER,
HER FEELINGS, THEIR FEELINGS FREE TO SHARE.

MEDICAL ADVICE WAS NOT WITHIN THEIR REMIT, BUT
SHE FOUND THAT THOSE ODD FEELINGS WERE NOT UNIQUE, — JUST THINGS!,
THIS REASSURANCE BROUGHT OUT THE SUN, BANISHED THE "UNKNOWING" AND
UNSEEN, ON CALL, HER DOCTOR IN THE WINGS.