

**BEYOND FORGETTING:
POETRY AND PROSE ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**

Edited by Holly J. Hughes □ The Kent State University Press
Alzheimer's Inspires Observant Loved Ones

Alzheimer's can devastate both its victims and the people who care for them. It steals the brains of one of two persons over the age of 80. Editor Holly J. Hughes found 100 outstanding writers who took their personal observations and experiences of Alzheimer's and turned it into eye-opening poetry and prose. Each author reflects on the impact of Alzheimer's on loved ones in *Beyond Forgetting: Poetry and Prose about Alzheimer's Disease*.

The poems and prose cover love, loss, fear, bewilderment, amazement, and reinterpretation of life's mysteries. Each piece captures a witnesses' specific memory of a moment with Alzheimer's. Candace Pearson writes about loss of language in "Another Country." Len Roberts recalls his aunt's hilarious antics in "My Uncle Chauncey drove my Aunt Eleanor." Nancy Dahlberg gives us love and role reversal in "We All Fall Down." Sybil Lockhart rediscovers her mother's physical beauty in "Naked." Donna Wahlert shares the acceptance that Alzheimer's brought her in "Late Middle Alzheimer's Disease."

The experiences of these spouses, sons, daughters, doctors, nurses, and caregivers touch on nearly every emotion imaginable. These writer-witnesses have been transformed by their experiences.

The authors' brief personal stories found in italics at the end of each piece, add a layer of context and strengthen the fact that these are real experiences. Throughout, the writing is clear, heart-felt, multi-layered, and reflective.

Kudos to editor Holly J. Hughes for her concept, Tess Gallagher, who wrote the foreword, and the men and women who shared their stories, perceptions, and memories in *Beyond Forgetting: Poetry and Prose about Alzheimer's Disease*.

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