

POETRY/FICTION

Palliative care\*

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When you come to visit me,  
Please be yourself. To me  
You have always been funny,  
Genuine, spontaneous.  
Don't put on a new persona.  
Don't act differently  
Despite the circumstances.  
(I go to concerts to hear  
The old songs I love and remember,  
Not the latest album.)  
I want to joke  
I want to reminisce  
I want us to be  
As we always have been.  
I know this sounds all about me.  
But it is.

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\*This poem was written from a patient's perspective about receiving visitors on the palliative care unit.  
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