

# Watercolor

C Earles

## Citation

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## Abstract

a work by Cheryl Earles  
used by permission  
watercolor art by her mother, Mary Earles,  
diagnosed with Alzheimer's 2007

Figure 1



As the hues of the watercolor diminish  
from bold shades to whispers of pale tint,  
the woman I know slips slowly away.  
Oft time she looks without seeing, hears without  
understanding  
and waivers on the brink of no longer being part of this  
world.  
Her finger is carefully placed upon the printed page,  
purposefully touching each word to no avail.  
At the end of the line  
they are merely a collection of images that,  
yet again, mean nothing.  
She is frightened of the monster consuming her mind  
and looks to me for an answer.  
I have no words,  
for I cannot utter the name of her nemesis  
in fear that she will hear it in a moment of clarity  
and realize the dreadful fate placed before her.  
Nor can I address it aloud  
because it resounds like a gavel  
imposing an unspeakable sentence  
we do not wish to hear pronounced.  
Myself? I am imprisoned with her  
living my days trying not to weep for the loss of an artist,  
a seamstress,  
a nurturer of all creatures great and small,  
a mother.  
Feigning strength,  
I console her with words of silken lies,  
because words of truth would be as cruel as her destiny.  
Helpless, I shall continue to watch her fade away,  
like a canvas left hanging in the noonday sun  
until the image is consumed by its rays;  
and I silently remain keeper of the knowledge  
that black darkness will soon step in  
where there once was color and light.

**References**

**Author Information**

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