

A Woman I No Longer Recognized

By Jill M. Brown

Childhood at Gram's house

Tiddlywinks

Bunny-shaped pancakes

Record player blaring

Sneaking through her dressing table

Gram's ornate golden hairbrush gliding through

My blonde locks

Avon containers

Costume jewelry

Moon pie

Jiffy cupcakes

Hugs

I curled her hair before bed

She sat with patience and grace

Encouraging me as she recalled stories from

Her childhood

Stories lost from my memory

Giggles

Snuggles

Hugs

Cancer crept between us

Her hair gone

Her face different

I was

Fearful of a woman I no longer recognized

She held out her arms, but they remained empty

I was only eight

Fearful of a woman I no longer recognized

No more cupcakes

No more energy

No more hugs

No more Grams

She was gone

If only I could go back and curl her hair

Eat cupcakes

Fill her empty arms

Instead
I attempt to match her
Wisdom
Grace
Kindness
And

Forgiveness

To make up for the time
I denied
A woman I no longer recognized