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## She is With You

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The Flower  
Douglas Calder

Alford Hinde: She is With You

Years have been spent  
Searching for it  
And then I find  
The perfect flower

I admire it  
And appreciate it  
For all that it has to offer

But I do not protect it  
In fact, I pluck off petals  
And carelessly cast them aside

In time of storm  
I do not shelter it  
Rather I protect another

I give my attentions to  
A less deserving flower  
Yet not a flower at all  
It is a weed  
Distracting me  
Poisoning me

But the flower remains  
The petals it still carries  
Ravaged by winds of a storm  
It should never have been subjected to

I return to the flower  
To tend to it  
To nurse it back to health

Hoping it is not too late  
To salvage this once beautiful flower  
And all that it represents

She is With You  
Bonniejean Alford

Her soul exists still, changed,  
merged with you as you breathe, in your thoughts.  
That warmth you feel in the morning, her smile.  
That shivering you feel from time to time, her tears at your sadness.  
That pressure on your arm, her hand providing comfort.

Her love engulfs you,  
present in your heart, your soul.  
The storm of life may battle around you, but she is with you,  
protecting you with the thunder;  
cleansing you with the rain;  
Brightening your world with the sunlight.

For now, oh loved one, live your life, even if you feel seemingly alone.  
You are not alone.  
She will forever be at your side,  
her form merely on another plane of existence.  
One day, far in the future, you will join her there,  
and dance through eternity.