

My Sister...My Keeper

Sonia Schreiber Weitz (January, 2010)

It was May 6, 1920 on a farm in Rajsco, Poland
A little girl was born.
And 8 years later I was born.
I so adored her. My role model.
Wise and funny, tough and gentle

This is beyond words
Beyond tears
Beyond love and regret
Beyond pain
Beyond despair.

Some losses cannot be overcome
Cannot be defined
They are above and beyond
What we can bear.

My mind is a whirl spin
There is no tomorrow
Only yesterday repeating
Helpless and blank
No light, no air
I am suffocating and I cannot breathe.

My sister - my keeper
She cannot leave me yet, not yet
How do I prepare
For a world without her?

How do I not slip into a world of despair?
How do I not give up hope?
How do I ever find a way
To share the 'stolen years'
Of love and care and joy.

I am thankful of for our time together but wonder
Who can fathom the depth of the abyss?

I have such friends whose care I crave
Who love me unconditionally.
Their love is deep and strong
They watch my pain and comfort me
And yes indeed.....
They give me all the space I need.
To ache and maybe someday heal.

She died peacefully
In a clean bed
Of natural causes
Surrounded by her loving family.

Was that not what we dreamt about?
What we longed for
In that other world?

Then why can I not accept
the blessings of our 'stolen years'?
We had such fun!
We traveled and soaked up culture and beauty
And tasted the wine in the sunset

We laughed and cried
And clung to each other
As life presented the good and the sad.

Our love was uncommon
Our love was divine
You told me selfishly you hoped
You would die before me.

Your wish has come true
And I cannot bear the loss
The grief, the loneliness

The funeral is a blur
How could I have left you
That freezing, windswept afternoon.
The last time we were that cold
Was on the death march for Auschwitz
But then you protected me
And willed me to live.

But now I failed...
I left you there
Next to Norbert and Mark
May they help you to rest in peace.

(Written one month after the death of her sister, Blanca Borell, in December, 2009 and five months before her own death on June 23, 2010.)