The Road Out of Town

Helen Burke

A Remembrance

This was the last poem Helen wrote:

Remember me:
I hold you in my arms
I am thinking; I am blackbird; I am still
Remember me when I am gone away

On the road out of town
As all this when first they take that single step
And you will hear me singing till
The dance always ends to read
She too is standing
Why yes — there was something else
You will see the space I have left and say —
And you will look around — oh yes
And you will miss them — oh yes
And you will wish them all
And you will wish them all

One with my singing heart
I hold you in my arms. I fly to you
I hold you in my arms. I fly to you
All the summers of my heart. I give to you
You say you want another summer with me
I am blackbird. I am still
Remember me when I am gone away

The Road INTO Town

by Phil Pattinson

I and many other people will always thank Helen for showing us The Road INTO Town.

She was always willing to share her take on writing poetry and encourage people who wanted to write (and paint) and thought they weren’t good enough to just write and get the work out there. Because that’s what was important to Helen, whether it was sending to publications or entering competitions and more importantly reading her work to an audience.

She was a prolific writer and when the thought came it had to be written down.

Helen wrote from the heart with humour, compassion, and above all honesty. She would ride that horse straight to the middle of town and tether it right outside the doors of the saloon.

She wasn’t afraid to fall off that horse and, despite many setbacks health-wise, would get back up on that horse and keep on writing and keep on writing.

Because the Work was all important to her. Poetry can make a difference and I think she did just that. She wanted it to be fun and boy did we have fun. I can never thank Helen enough for showing me the road INTO town and her memory will stay with me forever.

- Love, Philsy