

The Jeannie I Knew

By Kelly Coleman

A smile that ACTUALLY filled the room,
A warm “how are you?” that left no place for gloom

An interested listener with questions galore
Heart to heart conversations, she always had time for more

A hula hoop champion and basketball, too
There was really nothing that she couldn't do.

A fabulous wardrobe of classic black and white
With lots of turtlenecks to keep her neck out of sight

Long sweeping skirts and amazing quilted vests
Silver jewelry to her was simply the best.

Shopping the gem show with her was a treat.
Making either of us leave was no small feat.

An eye for beauty and finder of things rare
Try to buy one for her? “Don't you dare!”

Did this rule apply to her? Absolutely not.
For me Italian silver earrings, she bought a lot.

Angelz Designs was our favorite vendor
Seems apropos for the title “angel” sure fits her!

A seven layer dip that was out of this world
A quilt that dropped jaws when it was unfurled

A breast cancer survivor whose good fortune was shared
Through quilt auctions that showed how much she really cared

Quilt For A Cause was her dream come true.
Those precious quilts raised \$1 million dollars, Who Knew?

This was the sweet and selfless soul that I knew
Putting “ helping others” at the top of her “To Do”

Don Sr.'s world was in technicolor once more
When this dancing queen came whirling through the door.

At Sensational Settings, Greg and I met her by chance.
"I know your father" she said and "We dance!"

We laughed til we cried and our faces hurt.
"You really mean **my** dad?" Greg was heard to blurt.

She wasn't kidding and seemed surprised we didn't know.
Though we now knew the source of Don Sr.'s new glow.

She made it through a Coleman gathering with grace.
Soon a wedding was announced, St Pius was the place

Our family was blessed when she became a part
Despite Harry's "suspicions" she won over our hearts :)

Those suspicious grandsons became her biggest fans.
She always had time to ask about their lives and big plans.

She quilted our families together and new sisters she gave us
Alison and Colleen, who probably thought " Heaven help us"

Our birthdays were made special by her Ladies Lunches
The best gift was her time and we treasured it bunches

Our lives were better for all the joy that she brought
Fun times and laughter happened more often than not

I'll never forget the Jeannie we all love
She was truly a gift from above!

A note for Don Sr, himself, a special soul
His heart has suffered and yet tries to remain whole

God sent not one but two great loves into your life
And, although, losing them both really cuts like a knife

He sent you His signs that your pain He does know
An eclipse for Jeannie and for Patsy a rare Tucson snow

A lesson for all who have gathered today
Never take for granted even one single day

We never know the exact time, place or hour
So, treasure your loved ones and give them a flower.

