

A Friend in the Storm

Cheryl Ricker

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No!!!

Struck by dread and endless questions
in the thick of instant night,
tears and fears consume me empty,
shred my grit to stick the fight.

Hands and lips uplift me briefly
but they miss my bleeding core;
Then the sound of Comfort whispers,
“I will show you something more...”

When filled with holy truth the mind rests. – Charles Spurgeon

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

Step Together

In whirlwinds of confusion
when cold questions press you tight,
ask Me close and I will hold you
by a love surpassing sight.

You're My treasure, bright with promise,
and I live to see you reign;
As we cross this bridge together,
I will lead you through your pain.

Every step toward Christ kills a doubt. – Theodore Cuyler

So do not fear, for I am with you... I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

Closer

My arm enfolds your shoulders
as I whisper sweet and warm;
Past the haze, into My rays,
we'll move in tune to beat this storm.

Though your eyes remain part-clouded
by your grief and shrouding fear,
heart to heart you'll start to see Me
through a lens that's growing clear.

God had one Son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering. – St. Augustine

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Isaiah 53:3

Lifted

I let the path of suffering
rip and tear Me to the core;
The naked shame of all the world
upon My Spirit tore.

Rejected and despised,
I let them lift Me in your place;
So in your path of pain today,
be lifted free with grace.

God takes life's pieces and gives us unbroken peace. –
W.D. Gough

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those
who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

Finisher

When it feels like life has failed you
and your mind's been cast in war,
please remember Love's forever;
I will pass you through this door.

You don't cry alone in battle,
even when you think you've lost.
Please believe this truth, My winner:
Heaven paid your victor cost.

The Almighty has his own purposes. – Abraham Lincoln

The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17

you

You're forever on My mind
and in your presence I rejoice;
Singing out your name with angels,
all your sweetness fills My voice.

Keeping loved ones in My keeping,
I embrace a constant calm.
Whole and holy, I will hold you,
ever-after in My palm.

Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow – it empties today of its strength. – Corrie ten Boom

My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

Peacescape

Receive My peace inside your eyes;
Though rivers rage, hope never dies.

I'll see you past the end of fear
'til gifts unfold like spring fresh cheer.

I'll spread your wings across the night;
With deepest peace, I'll give you sight...
to see beyond this purposed pause
into the light of My applause.

Travel or meditation, tranquilizers or therapy can bring a measure of relief – but why settle for a mere reprieve when God offers us real, genuine, personal peace. – Luis Palau

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Higher

How I long to lift you higher
through this dose of close relief,
weave new joy amidst this trial,
piece great healing through your grief.

Knowing no one steals your feelings,
let regret and blaming cease;
Feet on mine, I'll lightly lead you
to this place of quiet peace.

Providence has at all times been my only dependence, for all other resources seem to have failed us. – George Washington

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Counselor

My quiet place is open
every solitary day;
Waiting eagerly to see you,
open time is all you pay.

I'm by far a better listener
than this world's best-listening man;
If you're stuck on what to tell Me,
think again. I understand.

Our weakness should render us able to speak to God with daring, for Love is vulnerable to weakness. – Pierre Wolf

Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you.
Psalm 55:22

Rest

Throw Me all your passing worries,
pressing thoughts and testy weights,
past confusions, mass intrusions;
Throw Me all your human hates.

Letting go, you'll find true lightness
from the One who took your shame;
I'm a pro at trading burdens;
After all, that's why I came.

What a wonderful thing to know, to remember, to remind yourself of when you feel overwhelmed with busyness or with pain. You don't have to come to him quiet. You just need to come to him. – Emilie Barnes

I pour out my complaint before him; before him I tell my trouble. Psalm 142:2

Why?

Why would a God who loves so strong
allow this blow of senseless wrong
enwrap me in this shock of pain
that tries to snuff what's kept me sane?

With failing strength, I'm struck down low,
so where's this peace supposed to flow?
Inside this hole where dreaming dies
beneath bare groans and screaming cries?

Friend,

Thanks for reading the introduction of “*A Friend in the Storm.*”
I trust you enjoyed it.

The next fifty-eight pages were omitted from this sample. They offer deep peace & lasting hope, addressing our deepest questions & inner struggles.

I *know* this comfort gift book will further bless you when you read it in its entirety! Share it with friends! (It’s temporarily on sale for a reduced rate at AFriendInTheStorm.com.)

Now... for our celebrant conclusion! Enjoy!!

~ *Cheryl Ricker*

God's love is like a river springing up in the divine substance and flowing endlessly through his creation, filling all things with life and goodness and strength. – Thomas Merton

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Psalm 46:1-5

Steady Now

Swinging high and low beside you,
I've become your steady beat;
Loving those you love still deeper,
I lead everybody's feet.

Others leave, but I stay fastened
like a waltz that knows no end.
In the midst of this, be light
because you're right with your Best Friend.

When Jesus takes your hand, He keeps you tight. When Jesus keeps you tight, He leads you through your whole life. When Jesus leads you through your life, He brings you safely home. – Corrie ten Boom

The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Exodus 15:2

Heaven Inside

You waltzed inside my lonely room
and snuffed out doubts' unwelcome gloom.

Beyond these window panes I see
a glimpse of wide eternity.

Beyond my flesh that aches to grasp
Your healing truth, my soul, You clasp;
All thanks to love, You found my start;
The sound of home awakes my heart.

Acceptance is not resignation, giving up... Acceptance is active cooperation with God, and it always includes gratitude. – Warren W. Wiersbe

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Psalm 40:3

Sweet Dreams

When the night is long I'll praise You,
raising prayers against the storm,
letting truth direct my thinking,
breezing peace through my weak form.

Safe inside Your Spirit's blanket,
wiping tears like mourning dew,
I will whisper in the shadows,
"Lord, I'm still in love with You."

We can only appreciate the miracle of a sunrise if we have waited in the darkness. – Unknown

In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation." Isaiah 25:9

Freedom!

Your fight with pain will fall like chains
and never be remembered,
but love and joy will multiply
My perfect plan, unhampered.

Like Me, you'll fill with songs
that wrap your mind in deepest peace;
Exploring free, forgetting grief,
you'll find your soul's release.

Joy is the serious business of heaven. – C.S. Lewis

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has
conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.
1 Corinthians 2:9

Bliss

A cacophony of colors,
brand new senses burst ignited;
Swinging, singing, laughing, clapping,
every moment, most delighted.

With a merry host of angels
in a revelry of flight;
Here and there, as free as air,
you'll see it all in brand new light.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.
– John Newton

And so we will be with the Lord forever. I Thessalonians
4:17

Complete

Transparent streets of gleaming gold
and friends for endless miles...
You're dancing dreams of sheer delight;
Hugs greet you wide as smiles.

My love flows waves right through you,
bathing you in Glory's morn...
By fragrant gardens' endless blooms,
you're finally fully born.

God bless you!

“*A Friend in the Storm*” is one of the best gifts you can give to your friends! I hope you’ll take advantage of the temporary sale of this book at AFriendInTheStorm.com.

~ *Cheryl Ricker*

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