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WRITER

WHERE WORDS  
COME TO  
LIFE

## TRANSFERENCE

BY

JENNIFER FABIANO

THE SECRET TO BEAUTY HAS FINALLY BEEN REVEALED TO ME. I CAN'T PACKAGE IT AND MAKE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OFF OF IT, BUT I HAVE SEEN IT WORK.

IT DOESN'T COME IN A FANCY BOTTLE OR A SHINY BLUE JAR. IT ISN'T A SERIES OF INJECTIONS YOU ENDURE EVERY THREE MONTHS. IT'S NOT A CREAM OR A PILL OR A NEW WORKOUT PROGRAM. YOU CAN'T BUY OR BORROW IT.

MY PUBESCENT DAUGHTER IS BLOSSOMING, BUDDING, AND BURGEONING WITH BEAUTY. HER VITALITY AND VIBRANCY ARE EVIDENT AND HER CHOCOLATE-BROWN EYES SPARKLE WITH LIFE UNTESTED. HER SKIN GLOWS WITH GOOD HEALTH AND HER COLTISH BODY PERFORMS AT PEAK CAPACITY.

I DELIGHT IN WATCHING THIS. BUT EACH DAY I FEEL AS IF MY OWN VITALITY IS WANING; MY OWN BEAUTY FALTERING AND FADING. I'M CONVINCED A TRANSFERENCE IS HAPPENING.

EACH NIGHT, SOMETIME BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 3 A.M., MY DAUGHTER TIPTOES INTO MY ROOM AND GENTLY TOUCHES MY ARM. I AWAKE, LIFT THE COVERS AND SCOOT OVER TO MAKE ROOM. SHE SNUGGLES IN CLOSE TO ME AND QUICKLY DRIFTS OFF TO SLEEP. I LAY AWAKE AND REVEL IN THE WARMTH OF HER BODY, KNOWING DEEP IN MY SOUL THAT THESE DAYS ARE NUMBERED.

THOUGH MY DAUGHTER ASSURES ME THESE NOCTURNAL VISITS ARE THE RESULT OF A "BAD DREAM," I KNOW THEIR TRUE PURPOSE: SIPHONING THE LIFE FORCE FROM ME SO IT CAN PASS IT TO HER. TRANSFERRING THE MATURITY, KNOWLEDGE AND FEMININITY SHE NEEDS TO GROW UP. SHE SEEKS NOT JUST COMFORT BUT ASSURANCE THAT I WILL BE THERE—TO CUDDLE, TO SLAY THE NIGHT DEMONS, TO SOOTHE HER SLUMBER—AS SHE GROWS INTO ADULTHOOD.

IN THE MORNING, THE NIGHTTIME RITUAL IS EASILY FORGOTTEN AS MY DAUGHTER FACES THE DAY WITH EAGER EXUBERANCE AND ENERGY. FOR ME, ITS MEMORY LINGERS IN THE SMELL OF HER ON MY PILLOW AND THE FEEL OF HER HEARTBEAT NEXT TO MINE.

IF THIS IS WHAT I MUST ENDURE TO SEE HER GROWING BEAUTY, THEN SO BE IT. I WILL WILLINGLY GO TO SLEEP KNOWING THAT, EACH NIGHT, A SMALL PART OF ME IS TRANSFERRED TO HER. WHEN I LOOK IN THE MIRROR, I WON'T BE SADDENED. I KNOW THAT WHAT IS FADING IN ME IS TRANSFERRING TO SPLENDOR IN HER. ❁