

Unimaginable Journey



- Annika Venter -

introduction

"As a mother, there are moments that stay with you forever. One of those moments for me was when I found Annika quietly writing after an especially difficult day. I asked if I could read what she had written, and as I took in her words, I was deeply moved. The poem captured her fight against Friedreich's Ataxia, the disease that challenges her every day. Yet, even in the face of something so daunting, Annika's faith and positive outlook never waver. These qualities shine through in each of her poems, reflecting her resilience and the light she carries within her. This collection is not just a series of poems – it's a window into Annika's soul, where strength, hope, and beauty reside despite the battles she faces.

Her poems, woven from both the light and shadows of her experiences, invite you into a world of raw emotion and thoughtful reflection. As you turn each page, I hope you find as much meaning and beauty in her words as I do. This collection is not just a book of poems – it's a glimpse into her heart, and I couldn't be more proud to share it with you."

- Retha Venter

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time



Bruises

Bruises,
the only evident hurt they all see.
But what about those on the inside?
I wish I could show you
but I know at least the One sees.
And there will be a time when my bruises will disappear.
It is written: "There is a time for everything under the heavens".

Knocked down

When you're knocked down, it's important to get back up.
It's no easy task
but the sense of pride is so rewarding.
Life isn't supposed to be easy,
so, welcome those trials.
In the deepest darkest valley
just look to the faint little light.
Remember, there's a presence with you and He'll get you out
of there.
Yes, it's a struggle
to keep your faith while you are blinded and
thrown with curve balls ...
but try your best to catch some.

Courage is a word often used casually, but its true meaning became clear to me when I met Retha and learned about Annika and Chene's condition. Their unimaginable journey, beautifully expressed through a series of poems, highlights the resilience, strength and profound depth of their courage. It's a word that took on new significance for me through understanding their experiences. I'm honoured to offer each reader a glimpse into what courage truly means.

- Oscar van Antwerpen

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