

Brief Review of *Reminder* by Irene Willis, Reviewed by Frederick Feirstein

The emotional center of Irene Willis's first-rate book is a love story about her husband who died and her courageous recovery of herself. Many of the other fine poems are flashbacks to a nurturing but impoverished childhood. The short poems are in free verse with striking images. My favorite is the title poem "Reminder":

REMINDER

When I say guess what happened--  
my usual way of starting a story--  
I see a look of alarm in his eyes  
replacing the sweet smile with which  
he starts the iambic of our days --  
our remaining days, which of course  
everyone has -- all that remains  
is all we have -- but when I say this  
and know he still loves, it's as good  
as the afternoon I came home earlier  
than expected and said to this man  
who can no longer walk with ease  
and who spends his days in a chair  
with his feet uplifted, when I said  
as a joke, I half-expected to find you  
jumping and dancing, he said,  
not smiling, that's exactly how  
I see myself in dreams.

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