

Survive & Thrive: A Journal for Medical Humanities and Narrative as Medicine

Volume 3 | Issue 1

Article 4

2017

Rummage Box

Ann Neuser Lederer

University of Pittsburgh, BSN, annlederer@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: http://repository.stcloudstate.edu/survive_thrive

Recommended Citation

Lederer, Ann Neuser (2017) "Rummage Box," *Survive & Thrive: A Journal for Medical Humanities and Narrative as Medicine*: Vol. 3 : Iss. 1 , Article 4.

Available at: http://repository.stcloudstate.edu/survive_thrive/vol3/iss1/4

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by theRepository at St. Cloud State. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Survive & Thrive: A Journal for Medical Humanities and Narrative as Medicine* by an authorized editor of theRepository at St. Cloud State. For more information, please contact kewing@stcloudstate.edu.

Rummage Box

Cover Page Footnote

N/A

Poetry

Rummage Box

Ann Neuser Lederer
University of Pittsburgh

Inside a flat basket lined in red velvet,
small cloth balls roll.
No two alike: scraps from old nightgowns,
strips of rags, frayed baby blankets, outdated ties.

Wadded to begin with, then wound like yarn
until there is no more.
Utterly useless, she explains, but the children love them.

I do too -- could hardly wait to start my own.
People who see them bring her their cast-off fabrics,
more than she could ever need.

For though she is full of projects, time is running out.
She explains that too, as she stirs and monitors
a mess of soon to be peanut brittle, while wearing
a soft white sweater that matches her hair and pearls.

Most of us have our junk drawers,
but the half-forgotten frail folk
stowed in their neat bright corners
might miss the urge to rummage.

Their fingers might yearn for a handful of seed pods,
rattling gently like the wind, when lifted.
Or a bit of sponge, or chalk, or a cushion of pins
with little colored dots for heads.