

Carmela

With sunset caramel skin and greying hair
And the most beautiful smile I've ever seen
Within the confines of her wheelchair
She's known in Lourdes as the pilgrim queen
She asked me, "Will you push me really fast?
I want to feel young, live life again!
Can you tip me, spin me, this year's my last?"
I yanked her wheelchair out in the rain
And sprinted fast as I possibly could
Lifting the chair and spinning round and round
I took Carmela back to her childhood,
Beaming, dancing, flying off the ground...
I brought her back inside to say goodbye
Tears kissed her cheeks, and so did I.

Tom Clarke