

TABITHA RUSSO PARKER

VILLANELLE FOR THE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

Remember Florida and I'll remember you.
My devotion may never be understood,
but I will hold your hand until it's through.

Do not go kindly back to the blue
sea and sand, although I know it's home.
Remember Florida and I'll remember you.

Though tonight it's bleak and gray in hue,
and the darkness mirrors my infected mood,
know, I will hold your hand until it's through.

And I'll remind you of days we once knew
of a balmy sun and palm tree wood.
Remember Florida and I'll remember you.

Remember through nights when your only view
is paralyzed with the knowledge of your disease.
I will hold your hand until it's through.

And no one will understand but me and you,
our whispers, kept secrets, promises that when you
leave,
I'll remember Florida and I'll remember you.
But until then, I'll hold your hand until it's through.