

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.