

Wedding Night

This was the settling hour
Start of the long night
Giving out medicine, drinks and soothing smiles
To each in tum,
And suddenly there you were
In the hushed shadows
Behind the curtains.
A sleeping beauty
So still in your smart wedding suit
Confetti hearts and purple flowers
All scattered on your sheets,
And under your sock
Your right foot
Was slowly turning blue.

It was late when the wedding guests arrived
From the Social club at the Hospice door,
All dressed up and a little drunk
They did not hide their tears.
Your new wife radiant
In her strapless gown
Wearing the wrong ring
While you wore hers.
Swopping them over
I read your tiny words of love out loud
With my torch.
All choked up.
I called softly to you
Across that darkness
And you sleepily surfaced to see
The gathering faces of your guests.
Your son stepping forwards.
I love you dad,
And you smiled I love you too
And asked if the party was good,
Not without you dad,
Not without you.

Your parents were there too
By your bedside
Stunned into a quiet dignity of disbelief
Keeping you company on your wedding night
Not knowing if this would be your last.
Your wife holding one hand
Your sister the other
All nodding in a Hospice haze
As the hours crept slowly by.

Surrounded with hot lavender bags
And love.
Yet nothing could keep out that cold
That would soon be catching
At your heart and throat,
Turning all of you blue grey blue
As you lay so still on the bed
On this your wedding night