

The Book by Ann Averitt Collins

THE BOOK

A hotel room so clean ----that unlived in look
waiting to enclose once again within its walls
a new set of people or a person for awhile....
Inside, the Gideons have placed a book

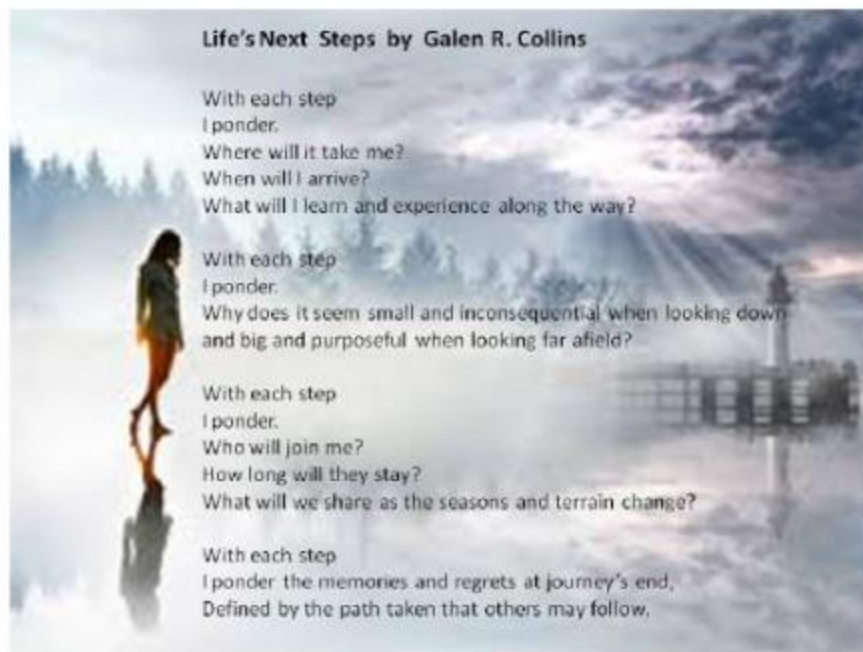
If only the walls could reveal the events
happening in the sterile atmosphere provided
to assure privacy for occupants travelling.
People have died there, cried there, had arguments
concerning love , peril, kids, a world divided,
and have purred there in secret---their tensions unravelling.

The mirror in the room has witnessed the beast
about to pounce on a victim of innocence
who has been lured by promises of fortune, fame...
The tears in the room and the fears there are ceased
at check-out time, and the end of this life's sequence
Is never known----blurred by time, the maid, another name.

A Hotel Bed so neat---that unslept-in look
Waiting to be undone by young, old, weary folks
For sleep, love, lust --for purposes good, purposes bad.
Beside, the Gideons have placed a Book.

- Ann Averitt Collins

Life's Next Steps



Who could that stranger be? by Ann Averitt Collins

WHO COULD THAT STRANGER BE?

When I see a Stranger, I have to see...
Who could that Stranger be?
Could that be Jesus there smiling at me?
Jesus smiles through our sisters and brothers
And He puts smiles in us to bestow upon others.

When I see a Stranger humble and bowed,
A beautiful, radiant face in the crowd,
I feel a great need to be shouting out loud:
"Who could that Stranger be...
could that be Jesus there smiling at me?"

The frowns within us which appear on our faces
Do not come from God but from other places...
They come from hurt, sin, and despair
God does not want us to be dwelling there
So He sometimes sends a Stranger whose outlook is bright
And whose smile casts a most magnificent light!

Yes, smiles are from God. They make us all shine...
We are the branches, He is the Vine.
We are the Strangers whose smiles light the world
From which the love of Christ is unfurled!

-Ann Averitt Collins