

The Memory of Running

by Ron McLarty (2004)

Smitty Ide grew up in MA in the 50's. As a young boy he would run everywhere, and then his dad bought him a 3-speed Raleigh. His older sister, Bethany, was a schizophrenic. She would disappear for days, they would find her, take her to the mental hospital, then return home. One day she never came home. The younger neighbor girl, Norma, had a crush on him. She was in a car accident & was confined to a wheelchair. He didn't know how to respond so he ignored her.

In his thirties he was going nowhere & weighed 280-lbs. His parents both died in the same car accident. He got drunk, took his old bicycle out of the garage & went for a ride. And kept riding calling Norma on the phone. He lost weight & got in shape. He rode his way to CA where they found the body of his sister in a morgue. During the trip he realized that he loved Norma as much as she loved him.