

Sudden Samaritan

by Nikki Grimes.

He didn't look like much,
a wizened old man
with sunken eyes,
a mop of salt and pepper
coils for hair, scraggly beard,
two teeth missing up front,
the rest badly in need
of dental rescue.
On a good day,
she'd scarcely notice him,
or allow such a one
to even draw near.
But here he was,
rolling her onto a grass mat,
pulling her at least a mile
across rubble,
to reach the nearest village
still standing after the tsunami.
As villagers gathered round,
bathing her broken body,
gently wiping her worried brow,
she looked upon them with love.
Eyes swollen shut,
she whispered thanks to the stranger
who'd already gone off
to find the next person in need,
to offer relief
just because.

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