The Stray Branch Lit Mag Spring/Summer 2021

Diana Raab, PhD diana@dianaraab.com

My body shut down

What is the message when suddenly your body shuts down and decides it doesn't want to be a part of anything anymore as sadness creeps into loosened pores?

Nobody brings sought joy as you fake everything like orgasms which build up into a dead end as you wonder what you will become and what will sustain you.

This feeling paints confusion and fear in my chasm of lingering discomfort when hair color becomes snow and zest buries itself in life's armpits.

Where is light in the night as migraines sweep across foreheads and compromise well-beings.

As a young girl I never expressed my needs, crushed and locked inside of me until it erupted as controllable cancer.

I am not blaming anyone, but life does take its toll on more gentle souls who rescue all but themselves.

At this crone age, what is life's recipe to shelter us from more pain?

I think I'll write a book It expands souls.