

From: A.D. Dirkzwager djatirot@me.com  
Subject: : Vera  
Date: 19 February 2025 at 11:37  
To: Juliette Martin-Abrams juliettemartin1@icloud.com



Dear Juliette,

As a caregiver for Vera, who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, I lost the time to communicate with friends.

She demanded all my time, to fill the emptiness of her own existence. Vera has deteriorated mentally in recent months.

Normal procedure is that prior judicial permission is requested to have someone admitted to a closed department. That procedure takes at least two months. In crisis shelter, the home situation is untenable and as an emergency measure there is temporary shelter for two weeks.

During those two weeks it will be decided where Vera can stay for a longer period.

I've grown accustomed to her face

She almost makes the day begin

I've grown accustomed to her smiles, her frowns, her ups and downs

Are second nature to me now

Like breathing out and breathing in

I've grown accustomed to her looks, accustomed to her voice

Accustomed to her face

She's second nature to me now

Like breathing out and breathing in

I'm very grateful she's a woman and not so easy to forget  
and yet

I've grown accustomed to face and yet

Accustomed to her face.

(With apologies for the paraphrase of the libretto of "My Fair Lady.")

On February 12, 2025 at noon,

Pauvre Vera was admitted in pajamas to the closed department of the Topaz healthcare institution in Leiden via 'the crisis care procedure'.

The decision whether there is crisis care is made by the general practitioner and the scan doctor.

When we brought a suitcase with clothing and toiletries for Vera to the care institution "Topaz" in Leiden at the end of the afternoon, we met Ms. Daniëlle van den Hooge from Boom advocaten in Leiden in the reception hall, who had just visited her client Vera. She was Vera's

legally assigned attorney. The judge must then determine whether or not the confinement of Vera in the closed unit has led to deprivation of liberty. She was very impressed with Vera's file and the difficult period we had gone through.

I, the 84-year-old husband, could no longer physically cope with Vera's mental decline.

After 55 years of togetherness, I stay in our apartment in a melancholy mood.

On the morning of February 13, we were told that Vera's mood in her new environment went smoothly the first day and night. She has showered and her hair has been washed. In our apartment in Noordwijk she categorically refused.

On Friday morning, February 14, we heard in the telephone conversation that last day passed in peace.

In the afternoon ± 3.30 pm I (ADD) and Natasja, the wife of our son Reinoud, visited her for the first time. When we met again we received an emotional greeting, but then Vera gave the impression that she accepted her new environment.

I have the impression that Vera has been taken care of in a good place and is receiving the care that I was no longer able to give her. With Vera's departure from our apartment, a new phase in my life has begun. I'll have to get used to it, after being married to her for 55 years.,  
Adriaan