



THE
BECKY R. EDGERTON
MEMORIAL HONORS SCHOLARSHIP

for
Honors Students
at the
University of Northern Colorado

Becky Richards Edgerton (April 22, 1942-December 17, 1999) loved poetry, opera, and good movies; The New York Times Book Review and The New Yorker magazine; good literature, wine and conversation; feminist theory, loyal friends, and her family. For her, reading was a way of life, and she read just about everything. She published poetry, taught in the Honors and Life of the Mind programs, and directed the UNC Cluster Program from its inception. She wrote her doctoral dissertation on "Bright Glass: The Fictional World of Mary Webb," and later became a recognized scholar on the poems of Jane Kenyon. Her favorite places in the world were New York City, Paris, the tiny town of Russellville, Indiana where she grew up with her sister Bronna, and the sunny family room of her house in Greeley, its coffee table stacked high with books, and a cup of tea within easy reach. She was the warm and loving mother of two children, Kate and Jeremy, and the endlessly fascinating marriage partner of her husband, Ron.

Becky once asked herself: "What have I learned, then?" And she answered:

That I do have inner resources.
That tragedy is part of life.
That love can cause destruction.
That much can be salvaged.
That one can give only so much of oneself without permanent loss.
That children too become both more and less of me.
That relationships are central.
That there is a God.
That one learns to feel more from both love and loss.
That work is a saving grace.
That there is grace, and that it is unexplained.
That the way you meet a trouble is important.
That it is necessary to forgive and to know when to forgive.
That loyal friends count.
That the failure to create is a felt failure.
That taking risks can cause great pain.
That wild birds can bring pleasure.
That music can bring pleasure.
That these things can help save one.
That one can sleep through periods of one's life.
That poetry is part of life.
That religion is part of life.
That literature and religion are parts of the whole and part of each other.

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