

LITERARY CORNER

UPEI's AUTHORS DIS

SUMMER DREAM

by Beverly-Anne Bishop

Mindy stretched and sighed. Smiling, she opened her blue eyes and gazed out the window.

"Oscar, it's warm, sunny and Friday!" she said, and sat up to address the panda. Oscar sat on the dresser solemnly looking down on Mindy. He looked warm, tired and loved. Pulling Oscar onto the bed Mindy continued her one-sided conversation. "I have a lot to do today. The concert is tonight and," she paused to flick on a nearby transistor, "having only one day off doesn't give me much time, does it?" She paused again to listen to a news bulletin. Just as the names of two young men were announced, a crash came echoing upstairs.

"Bother," said Mindy and upped the volume. She listened intently to the descriptions of the young men and the robbery they committed. As the announcer began the city and province another crash came up, successfully blotting the announcer's voice out. With disgust Mindy flicked off the radio, made a mental note to get a new battery, and went down stairs to find the source of the crash.

Mindy found her two little brothers and one large collie playing battles. The resounding crash had been caused by the rocking chair and a stone vase tumbling over accidentally. Admonishing the two boys and putting the dog in the yard, Mindy went into the kitchen to find some breakfast. She read the note left for her by her Mom and pulled out milk, a grapefruit, and sugar for breakfast. She ate quickly and cleared away according to the commanding note.

Letting the collie back in, Mindy went upstairs to phone Sonia. The house was now silent and Mindy liked it this way. Her two older brothers at work, the two younger ones outside—she could talk with Sonia in peace. Flopping on the floor beside the upstairs phone, Mindy dialed Sonia. It was luck that gave them both Friday off; usually Sonia had Mondays or Tuesdays off.

Although Mindy and Sonia were nearly the same height and weight, the resemblance ended there. Mindy was blond, very blond and her hair hung down to the middle of her back. Sonia's was short, curly and dark. Sonia was quieter and more reserved and tempered Mindy's impulsiveness down. Sonia, although half a year younger, appeared and was assumed as the elder of the two, a fact that always sent Mindy into fits of laughter. Today they were discussing "the concert".

The concert was by April Wine, a group both girls enjoyed immensely, and they followed the group's progress with eager relish. They had bought their tickets over two months ago and had heard that the advance tickets had been entirely sold out.

Mindy talked with Sonia for nearly an hour, at the end of which Mindy had decided to wear her black corduroys and a somewhat skimpy blue T-shirt. Sonia had decided to wear brown corduroys and a green T-shirt.

The rest of the day was spent by Mindy doing what she called "necessities." These consisted of washing clothes, listening to the stereo, and getting ready for the concert.

Mindy leisurely bathed, washed her hair and got dressed. She brushed her hair until it shone, studied herself critically in the mirror and talked to Oscar. "Well," she mused, "I guess I'm ready, Oscar. Think I look okay?" She laughed and said to her reflection, "I must be nuts talking to a bear. See ya later, Osc.," she added, running out and down the stairs.

Mindy shouted "bye", added she wouldn't be all that late and walked up to Sonia's house. Sonia lived about six blocks from Mindy. Sonia had an older brother and a younger sister. She and Mindy had been best friends as long as either could remember.

It was seven thirty when Mindy arrived at Sonia's. She was waiting and ready to leave. She and Mindy had decided to walk to the Coliseum as they said, "who knew who they might just meet at the concert?"

The Coliseum was only a 15-minute walk from Sonia's, and it was nearly 10 to 8 when they arrived. They walked right in and wandered around. The Coliseum was large and filling up quickly. Mindy's eyes glowed with pent-up excitement. She gazed around looking for someone familiar. Her gaze rested on a young man and his friend. "Cute" registered in her mind and she turned to speak to Sonia.

"I don't see anyone here I know," she said. "Do you?"

"No, I saw Debbie briefly but no one else," Sonia said. "There's a lot of people here though, so we'll probably see someone." At this point a rather drunk, obnoxious youngish man about 20 came up to them and proceeded to inform Mindy he would see her later. Trying not to recoil visibly, Mindy mumbled an indistinguishable answer and he staggered away.

"Let's get away from here," Mindy said and started walking. She stopped after a few yards and turned to Sonia. "Where shall we go? It's almost eight now."

"Guess just keep walking, or stop here," Sonia answered. "We're away from the creep." She laughed. They stood where they were and talked. A few minutes later the two young men that Mindy had seen earlier came up. The "cute" one spoke to Mindy.

"What time does the show start?"

"Well," Mindy said, "supposedly eight, but you know how concerts are."

"Yeah," he said and grinned. "You live here?"

"Uh huh," Mindy answered and smiled back. "Do you?"

"No, just visiting," he glanced around. "Looks like they're about to start."

Mindy and Sonia turned around. The lights went down and the group appeared. This was Cosmos, the feature group. The two boys were standing beside Mindy and Sonia was on her other side. Mindy looked at them sideways. He was cute, she thought, and grinned and nudged Sonia.

"What do you think?"

"Which, guys or group?"

"Both," Mindy laughed. "Great huh."

"You're a nut but you're right!" Sonia said.

The four stood in silence for the next few minutes. Mindy snuck another look at the boy beside her. He turned his head and grinned at her. Blushing, thankful that it was dim, she grinned back. A minute later he slipped his arm around her. Mindy didn't move; she glanced at him, and as he grinned again, she laughed. HE tightened

Remember

by Beverly-Anne Bishop

Remember I'm there when something hurts you,
To share the pain and hold you close.
Remember I'm there to share your troubles,
And make you smile again.
Remember I'm there when all goes wrong,
To listen and give you comfort.
Remember I'm there to lean upon,
Remember I'm there because I care.