Getting Out Again



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by Evelyn Dove-Coleman

Since the Pandemic, I have generally stayed in since meals and groceries can be easily delivered right to my front door. I still wear a mask when I do go out, and I most enjoy sitting on the deck over the ocean to let the salty air breeze blow over me then. But recently a friend shared that there is a good seafood restaurant near my house. You know I had to check it out because I love seafood. They have no delivery service, so I masked up and went in.

I went during a time of day when it wouldn't be too busy. Even then, they had a brisk take-out area on the other side. People I had never seen before were going in and out steadily. "The food must be delicious," I thought. As we were guided to our table, I glimpsed a group of people seated at a table by the back wall. "Is that Shirley Ceasar?" I whispered. Sure enough, it was the grammy-winning gospel recording artist.

I must have unconsciously stared at her throughout dinner because she came by our table to speak on her way out. She was so gracious, and her voice was musical though she was only saying hello. I got the chance to tell her how much I admire her, and she gave me a hug. Getting out again paid dividends that were totally unanticipated.

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