

Crazy Quilt

Stitching together
the bits and pieces left lying about,
she made a life of the crazy quilt leftovers,
taking scrap and turning it into
something beautiful.

Her sister died in childbirth,
leaving a motherless toddler,
too little to be left alone, too young for school.
The sweet little girl became the daughter she never had.

Her sweetheart was killed
in a senseless battle;
his younger brother
was looking for a wife.

When her own mother
was called home too soon,
too soon to finish her mothering,
a widowed aunt stepped in.

Over the years, as need arose,
someone arrived to answer that need
and stayed
to become part of her life.

Somehow, all these disappointing leftovers
became a beautiful whole.
When asked "What's that wool khaki?" or
"Whose red velvet dress was this?"
she smiled,

"I just gathered up what was available and,
in my spare time, put it all together.
Somehow, the pieces just seemed to fit."

Now, she sits by the window,
the quilt across her lap.
She can't see colors in the dim light
but her hands can feel
the textures of a life
pieced together from scraps.