



THE ROAD TRIP

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© 2004 — "Simple Pleasures of Friendship — Celebrating The Ones We Love"

Donelyn, DeDe and I always plan a road trip twice a year to get away from it all and celebrate our friendship. We never go very far from home, as it is not the location itself that is important. We usually rent a hotel room near by, order room service and completely relax. We talk, listen, laugh, and catch up on each other's lives while placing our family and work responsibilities temporarily aside.

The three of us have been close friends for a long time. We understand each other whether we are shining in our best light or standing in the dark looking quite dim. Our friendship is that simple....and that complex.

Our most recent road trip occurred at the spur of the moment. When Donelyn called and mapped out the plans for the unexpected and impromptu outing, I immediately said, "Count me in! I'll be there."

The three of us cleared our work and family schedules and were cruising down the highway in Donelyn's van two days later.

Absorbed in conversation, we hardly noticed the perfect spring weather outside. Not a cloud was in the sky, except for a fleeting shadow that flickered inside the van as we rounded the last corner to our destination. Pulling into the parking lot, we gathered up our belongings, locked the van doors and walked through the building entrance.

Exchanging brief smiles, we clasped hands and waited patiently at the check-in counter.

"May I help you?" the receptionist queried.

"Yes," DeDe answered. "We are here for my first chemotherapy treatment."