



We Rage, We Weep
Alzheimer Foundation

From: **We Rage, We Weep; A Rural Caregiver's Experiences Coping with Alzheimer's Disease**

By June Fuller Moulton

Chapter 9: 'Personality Changes that are Drastic or Inappropriate'

~~~~~

As this disease (dementia) destroys brain cells it erodes the personality of its victim... Rusty was not a devious person. He was friendly and welcoming to anyone who came our way... He was concerned about everyone, from the BC Hydro meter-reader who needed air in a tire to the neighbour who had a car or a piece of equipment stuck in the mud. If there was an illness, a fire, or a death in the community -- he wanted to help in whatever way possible.

That was the man I married. Yet he changed dramatically after the onset of Alzheimer's Disease, in ways that at the time I found incomprehensible.

Alzheimer's gave me a husband who, even though he might still want to help others, could no longer understand what they needed... Often, his suggestions and efforts were inappropriate... Even more heart breaking was his transformation from a trusting man to one suspicious of everyone and everything... After the onset of Alzheimer's, Rusty developed a proclivity for blaming almost every misfortune on something or someone else, and I found it difficult to deal with.

The Rusty I married wasn't prone to fits of depression, but as I came to learn, this illness is common in people with Alzheimer's Disease... After our move to town, Rusty began exhibiting signs of depression. I don't think he'd ever been depressed before. Whenever disaster came into his life, he'd been able to understand what had happened, deal with it, and plan for the future. But as the saying goes: "that was then, and this is now".

He must have missed the farm he loved so much. He never spoke of it, though, never asked to go there, and never asked questions about it. Neither did I.

Copies of the book can be purchased at  
<http://www.weragewweep.com/book.html>