

# Steve Cartwright

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## Knowing goodbye was for certain

I heard you  
Screaming at the catheter  
Screened behind the curtain  
As I lingered in the corridor  
Wondering like the visitor  
What's behind the barrier  
Herded by the doctor  
To the cafeteria  
Waiting for the order  
Come now you can see her  
She's behind the curtain  
Eaten by the cancer  
Hooked up to the monitor  
Screaming like a prisoner  
Skin all pulled together  
Stitched up like the football  
Hair shorn from the cranium  
Swollen like a marrow  
Me I stared and spluttered  
Shock ran through my being  
Lies that offered comfort  
Stuttered from my gizzard  
Nurse saw me struggling  
Saw I wasn't coping  
Told me I should go now  
She would never notice  
Helped me leave the bedside  
Helped me close the curtain  
Watched me say my goodbye  
Knowing goodbye was for certain