

**LETTER TO AN OLD FRIEND**

*...In the manner of Tu Fu*

**by  
Naomi Myles**

The sun came out briefly today  
though the unexpected chill  
made me sneeze.  
This has been a sad year.  
I have lost three friends  
and I miss them.  
The stiffness in my leg  
is gone now,  
and I can move more freely.  
The doctors plied me with  
medications which made me ill.  
Even my teeth were affected.  
I am pleased that the pain  
in my ankle is almost gone  
and only the soreness  
in my feet keeps me  
from my daily walk.  
All in all I am getting better,  
and find comfort in poetry.  
Sometimes I enjoy a glass of wine  
though not too often  
lest it disturb my digestion.  
My friends marvel  
that my hair has not  
turned to silver.  
They do not refer to my wrinkles  
and the stiffness of my walk.