



Amazing Sunflowers

By Jasmine Tritten

Because I am an artist, ideas come to me out of the blue from some unknown source. One day at the end of summer, I kept seeing in my mind, a large square canvas with a circle inside. However, I had no idea what to paint within the round shape. The image with the empty circle haunted me for days.

Then, one hot Friday morning, when I simply could not stand it any longer, I decided to buy the huge square canvas, size 48 inches by 48 inches. On the way to Michaels art store, I stopped by Sprouts to pick up a few groceries.

The moment I walked into the store to the left, five large sunflowers in a bunch, caught my eyes, amidst many other flowers. The stunning sun spheres radiated out into the universe and asked me to grab them. So, I did. Their huge heads had a deep yellow, almost orange color in the middle, framed by soft green leaves. I put them into my cart.

Normally I never buy flowers for myself, but these flowers hypnotized me. While I continued to fill up my cart with groceries, I suddenly realized that these beautiful sunflowers would not survive the heat in the car, since I had more errands to do. This happened to be a particularly hot summer day. Disappointed, I put them back carefully into their stand and sighed. Then I drove to Michaels to buy the canvas before returning home.

Later in the day, my husband Jim and I drove to Albuquerque to attend a writing class and went out for dinner afterwards. I did not tell him anything about shopping or the sunflowers I had seen.

During the drive home in the evening, Jim insisted upon stopping to get something at the same market I had gone to earlier in the day. So, I waited in the car wondering what he needed at this late hour.

Suddenly, he came rushing out of the store and handed me a bunch of beautiful sunflowers, about five of them." These are for you," he said in a loving way. Dumbfounded and surprised, I almost fell backwards. These were the same five

sunflowers, I had fallen in love with in the morning and put into my cart, but returned to the store on account of the heat.

Puzzled, I wondered what prompted him to even buy me flowers at this time. Usually, he gave me flowers only on special occasions. He claimed something urged him to get me flowers at that moment. What a coincidence. Or was it? Maybe ESP or some conspiracy from above. For some unexplainable reason I had to have those flowers and I was thankful.

The following morning when I looked at the beautiful yellow suns placed in my studio and then gazed at the enormous white canvas next to them, it became crystal clear in my mind what I had to paint inside the circle--- of course, a huge sunflower head, filling out the large canvas.

The image I had carried in my mind, of the white square canvas with a circle inside, transformed into an enormous painting of a sunflower, in vibrant colors. At the same time, it became a great memory of the gift my husband gave to me one day out of the blue. Life is full of surprises and I am grateful.