



“Present, Past, and Future”  
Barbara Louise Craig with  
Rachel Louise, the Future

**Barbara Craig:** Who is she?

Not simply a name, a face, an English teacher, a daughter, a grandmother, a wife,  
a lover of books and flowers and the beating of the rain upon the window panes

But always a dreamer, a seeker, a wanderer--then and now:

I have sailed the Nile where Cleopatra ruled  
And heard Aida under the stars on a moon-filled night in Rome  
And stood on a hilltop in Bali, West Cameroon, and wept at its beauty  
And taught its youth that freedom is found in enlightened minds.

Now, I am the smile of a grandmother reciting a tale, the warmth of a hug,  
And I see the promise of tomorrow in trusting eyes.  
I dig the soil and gently plant the seeds.  
Reading, I savor new words: *sapid*, *oenophile*, and *ankh*.  
Briskly walking, I feel the wind brush my cheeks  
and hear the mockingbirds' welcoming notes.

Though worn, slightly wrinkled, and out of breath, I see the sunrise and smile.  
I am a dreamer still.