

A VILLANELLE FOR RUSTY

A silent threat to our duet
is causing much disharmony.
He doesn't know he's dying yet.

There is no magic amulet
to wear against this cruelty.
It is a time of great regret.

The hidden harm appears dead set
to steal away life's quality.
He doesn't know he's dying yet.

He's more than just the family pet;
a loss for one is loss for three.
It is a time of great regret.

Through ministrations of his vet
the days we share remain pain-free.
He doesn't know he's dying yet.

We taste a bitter-sweet sunset,
but try to live life normally.
It is a time of great regret.
He doesn't know he's dying yet.

by Lee Netzler