



Jean Johnson Fourmy

October 23, 1948 - June 9, 2021

Jean Johnson Fourmy

October 23, 1948- June 9, 2021

How to capture the delight and mischief and impossible paradox that was Jean Johnson Fourmy? Born October 23rd, 1948, daughter of Virgyl Dariel Johnson and Elizabeth Cruze Johnson, Jeannie was an artist, a bohemian, a stubborn smart beauty, who would listen to you and make you laugh then quote profound poetry to you in a bad French accent. She loved to entertain and hold court in her living room and was a haven to many a refugee from conventionality. Her house was warm and decorated beautifully, often with jazz playing in the background or a black and white movie on TV. She adored her children, Eliot David Irwin (Janet Eckleberger), and Caroline Ellis Fourmy, and though she may not have used her many talents to their fullest, she was proud of how her kids took them and ran.

She wrote beautifully in handwriting worthy of framing, and she couldn't spell worth a damn. She celebrated unusual holidays, though Thanksgiving was her favorite. She was an excellent cook, a connoisseur of treasures from Summer Avenue, and she could make a room look beautiful out of practically nothing. She loved to paint and studied art at The Memphis Academy of Arts and Memphis State. She lived in New York in the 70's, and it was her favorite place, along with the beach. She was a wonderful and quirky gift giver. She made terrible choices, and she was deeply wise. She loved to sing. She married and divorced twice and moved a million times around her hometown

of Memphis. She had a traumatic brain injury fourteen years ago that dimmed her light a bit, and in her losing battle with cancer, she was very Real, as the Velveteen Rabbit would say. Her humor and warm presence continued until the end on June 9, 2021. She leaves a truckload of half-broken tchotchkes and a prayer in her wake: "May we wake up joyful and fearless, with the capacity for a little bit of trouble, and know that angels surround us and hold us up every step of the way." She was an unforgettable friend and will be sorely missed. Celebrate her life Saturday, June 26th 3pm at Calvary Episcopal Church with a great party to follow. Please send memorials in her name to the charity of your choice.