

The Places You'll Go, Rare Disease Edition

By Denise Crompton

Today is your day to **breathe very deep.**

This is not a nightmare. You are not asleep.

Oh, the places you'll go, now that you're aware
There's travel involved when conditions are **rare.**

To a **specialist** doctor who is far away,
But might have some answers, you'll travel one day.

The process of intake will tax your poor brain,
As you try to give details again and again.

Oh, the terms you will learn, as you go to and fro
From office to office of **doctors who know.**

And the things that you'll see when you go to **PT,**
Like braces and crutches and more in **OT.**

You'll see rods and wires and wheelchairs, too
And strange looking things that must be new.

Oh, the things that can happen, and frequently do
When you mix up the terms that are so new to you.
But those medical terms that were so hard to say
When you started out here, **will be easy someday.**

Oh, the way that you'll feel once you find the others
Who share your condition **like sisters and brothers**
You'll be part of a group with whom you can share
You'll know that, though rare, **you needn't despair.**
You will get together with similar folk
Who'll help you raise funds **to give you some hope**
While you're looking for answers here and there,
Hospitals, medical centres and just everywhere.

Yes, acceptance is hard as you learn how to deal
And reach out to others who **know how you feel**
There are times you will cry and wish it weren't so,

But you'll learn to be strong in those places you'll go.

