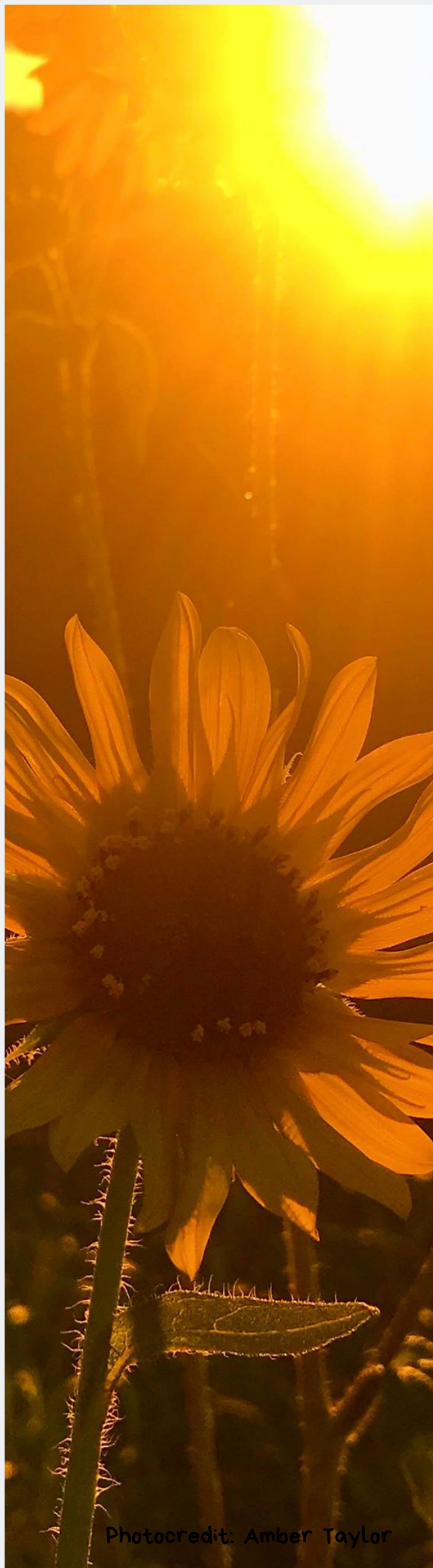


She Can't Let You Stay

By Amber Taylor, USA



Photocredit: Amber Taylor

The mirror shows her scars and bumps, and all the tracts that HS has made,
But despite the fact sadness creeps in,
She can't let it stay
The odor from her flares are stronger than her perfume
She looks around the room and wonders if anyone else can smell HS too
But despite the fact self-doubt creeps in,
She can't let it stay

The red mark across her skin left behind from gauze and tape, her finger
traces,
As she wishes today she didn't have to go to so many places
But despite the pain that HS brings on,
She can't let it stay

Another Epsom salt bath, another weekly biologic injection,
Another antibiotic downed all in hopes just to get better
She begs for a moment just to feel normal
But the HS hurts too much, it won't let her,
But despite her despair,
She can't let it stay

Her family wonders why she doesn't want to get out of bed
"There's nothing wrong with you, you're just lazy," her stepdad once said.
"I don't see anything wrong with you," her friend once stated.
"I can't even look at you without clothes on," said one guy she dated.
But despite the ignorance of so many others,
She can't let it stay

Another visit to a doctor who doesn't seem to understand
"Lose some weight, take a bath, make sure you wash your hands."
That's the advice doctors give to treat a raging condition
"You really think my weight and hygiene put me in this position?"
She asks the doctor as he walks away
But despite feeling dehumanized
She can't let it stay

All the money she's spent on her medical care
Would be enough to buy a house on a deserted island somewhere
But despite the dip in her finances
She can't let it stay

She's better than the sadness, the odor, and the pain,
She's more than what HS tries to make her believe,
She's a fighter, a warrior, and brave to her very core,
She won't let HS take her down in life,
She's going after more
There's all her hope
There's all her faith
There's going to be a cure
Deep in her heart, she believes that for sure
Awareness is key and a role we all play
I'm sorry Hidradenitis Suppurativa,
She can't let you stay!