

AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY

A FREE COLUMN FOR NEWSPAPERS BY TED KOOSER, POET LAUREATE OF THE UNITED STATES, 2004-2006
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Pauletta Hansel lives in Cincinnati, and today's poem is from her book *Palindrome*, from Dos Madres Press in Loveland, Ohio. It's a collection of poems about her mother's dementia, and although there have been many individual poems about that subject, by many poets, I know of no other book by just one poet that so completely and artfully sums up the emotions associated with that painful deterioration.

The View from There

Where in the world
does my mother go, eyes
shut so tight her lower lashes
curl in toward a view
that's hers alone?
Yesterday she told
me—*after the rains, the winds*
came, and this morning
that's what they do.

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