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Dad

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Dad |

Sarah Henry

when I see you
trudging up the steps
with the invisible ball
and chain dragging behind you
the years pressing down
and when
I hear you
groan, a tired, rattled sigh
stress mounting in your breath
laboring,
toiling,
I worry
when I see you
your graying wispy head
that used to shine reddish-brown
now hunched and bent
I stretch my hand and clasp
your weariness
and I pray