

The Captain

Jenna Abassi

Dementia's favorite outfit is no pants
Dementia looks me in the eyes before it decides to buy a new car
Dementia makes people think it is just a mid-life crisis,
sneaking up on the brain until
it is too late
Sitting on the floor of the hospital room
in a black polka dotted dress while
Dementia feasts on my father's brain
Captain Phillips plays on the TV and all I hear is
Dementia saying,
"I am the captain now."
Hands on the controls,
sitting comfortably in a seat
Dementia makes you forget you have a daughter even though
she has not left your side for sixteen years
Dementia will take those years away from you,
chew them up and spit them out because
Dementia does not give a fuck.
Dementia delivers suffering before death
making you forget everything but
Dementia knows it is memorable
and tornadoes through
poking holes in a brain
I used to admire
walk into the house one day and realize
I can't remember what my father used to be like
Dementia makes everyone forget.
Plaguing brains and lives until all you remember

is the day you heard about the diagnosis
and then Google tells you there isn't much research and
there is no cure
and in the background
I hear an echo
"I am the captain now."