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Silver Linings

My daughter says she isn’t ready yet

for me to die. That’s nice to know,

considering that more than once I’m sure

she would have liked to do the deed herself.

Things get complicated. Raising children

doesn’t come with *Raising Kids for Dummies*.

One just has to do the best one can,

which all too often isn’t good enough

by half, but by the time you realize

you’ve screwed things up, it’s much too late

for anything but wishing you were

anyone but who you are: someone smart,

someone self-aware enough to know

the damage you can do to those you love

the most. And then you get to live with who

you are and what you’ve done and haven’t done.

So now I’ve got this cancer diagnosis.

I’m pretty sure it isn’t going to kill me,

but it’s nice to know my daughter

isn’t ready yet for me to die.