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Tiresias

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Tiresias

NICHOLAS McLEAN

- I I think the worst part of having my grandfather live with us
Is when he would say "I told you so."

"Take me to the beach," he would ask,
"We'll go next week, I promise," I'd say.
"No you won't," he would sigh.

Next week came along and sure enough
We were too busy to go to the beach,
And grandfather would be sad despite knowing.

- II My grandfather liked to set my ears burning
With embarrassment.

"You know why I'm blind?" he'd say.
"One time I walked in on Athena bathing,"
"She blinded me for it but it was worth it,
Because I can still see those tits."

- III My grandfather took me fishing once
And said "I bet I'll catch more fish than you,"
"I bet you won't!" I fired back.

He won the bet, of course.

We used to do stuff together all the time...

- IV I asked my grandfather
Why he went with us on that trip to Colorado Springs
If he knew he was going to have a heart attack.

"Because," he replied.
"I wanted to be with you guys,"

And then he paused before saying
"Don't cry."

I didn't want to cry then
But when I think about him standing there by the spring fountain,
Clutching his hand on his chest then falling to the dirt,
I do.