
POETRY | FALL 2021

DNA

By Mary Anne Moisan

Life can announce itself, or at least drop hints.

Oh, of course

now I see.

It was always meant to be this way

or that.

If not a pronouncement, at least the 20-20 vision of hindsight.

I am here to say that sometimes life is hidden.

Deep within.

Unknowable.

The code for life inside our cells

twisting and curling.

A tangible mutation unsee-able.

The full expression of this notched gene waiting, waiting.

Too late to save the next generation.

We did not know.

We could not see.

Why would it be any different

than our dreams?

Mary Anne Moisan is a physical and occupational therapist living and writing in Maine. Narrative medicine is close to her heart and a driving force as she completes a memoir about her experiences as a caregiver for her husband who had early-onset dementia. Her poem “DNA” was generated in the process of writing her memoir, as was the seed story “We Are Whole” soon to be published in The Examined Life Journal.

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