
POETRY | FALL 2013

The Caregiver

By Kristen Camitta Zimet

1.

Trying what love can do, draw down
comfort and rest for her, who rocked you long,
and take her place where mind and body falter.
Trust that when you have come
far as you think you can, new strength will rise;
a wave of sleep will carry you released
home to yourself, and ease you further on
toward the country where her mother waits,
and hers, and hers.

2.

This is what you must practice:
setting aside the pictures of her
damaged beyond hope, the tubes
backing with blood, the stilled machines,
the uselessness of love to give her breath.
This is what you must learn: reaching ahead,
grasping her life in your life,
pumping her through
your lungs, your words, your hands.

Kristin Camitta Zimet is editor of *The Sow's Ear Poetry Review* and author of a full-length poetry collection, *Take in My Arms the Dark*.

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