

Daddy's Poem

by Katherine Parker

Your dark brown eyes lay before me in the mirror
I look and I'm startled because they are not what I knew
I thought we were born different and now I can't deny it
As I grow older, I become you.

Pictures of myself are misleading sometimes
My smile isn't always mine
Sometimes it's the one you used to wear
When you'd teach me to play baseball outside.

When I don't hide it, my hair is dark and curly
Like yours was before the cancer took your body
Now my mother coos in awe when it's naturally flowing
Because it reminds her of the husband she once held.

I am a girl, merely seventeen years old
Or am I a man with all of life's knowledge?
Am I borderline adult or borderline dead?
How can I survive what I can not see ahead?

I write with your hands about the lessons you taught
With your mind, I see the problems that you faced
And I learn to live life to the fullest each day
Because I never know when it could take me.