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Waiting

Nancy Bandusky
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Waiting. Photography. Nancy Bandusky

Confrontation with the Reaper

I've seen you lurking like a shadow of malice,
With palm open for the ill to fall in.
You, eager usurper, you self-employed assassin,
If breath be wine, you raise your chalice
And escort the lost to your cold, dark palace.
With just a cough you start to beam
And prepare your fists to rip fate's seam
As you end ailments without gratis.

Yet hair goes grey and skin will wrinkle
And mirthful eyes no longer twinkle.
Every journey and song must come to an end,
And when sore are my bones and heavy my heart,
I'll look to you as guide and friend,
And by your side, this world depart.

- Emily Shank