Alzheimer’s Villanelle

Jimmy Li, MD

With each passing day, I lose a yesterday,
And as yesterdays amass into yesteryears,
Stacks of color photographs fade to gray.

A father turned child, I hear my son’s voice play:
A call from a stranger, a wistful echo in my ears.
With each passing day, I lose a yesterday.

Who was that woman who visited today?
A white dress, a fervent kiss, and some cheers…
Stacks of color photographs fade to gray.

Marooned on the shore, I see floating in the bay
Bottles filled with messages: unreachable souvenirs.
With each passing day, I lose a yesterday.

There is ash in my brain. The wind blows it away,
And with it my old flame forever disappears;
Stacks of color photographs fade to gray.

You say I have lived a life of love and play,
So please look not upon me with tears.
With each passing day, I lose a yesterday.
Stacks of color photographs fade to gray.
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Jimmy Li

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