Acceptance Speech

For My Father

Adam Possner, MD

I don’t know how you do it
a loved one confides.

You’re amazing, my hero
applauds a second.

Your resolve inspires us all
declares another.

Such praise—such effusive praise!
from adoring fans
for his latest role in life
man with Parkinson’s.

He wants to tell them the truth
what it’s really like
to be typecast in such a
restrictive disease.
That appearances can be
deceiving, that if
all the world’s a stage he wants
to exit. Instead—

He thanks them and from behind
masked facies forces
a smile. I couldn’t do it
without my family
and friends, God, doctors, the drugs
so on and so forth.

I’m so very blessed. He sighs.

He wishes he could believe
the words he’s saying.

For someone somewhere out there
he tells them, it’s worse.

He tries not to cry—promised
himself he wouldn’t.

It can always be much worse.

Listen to Dr. Possner read this poem, available exclusively on Neurology® for the iPad®.

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Adam Possner
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