

Claire Scott

Covered Care

She lives on and on
defying all odds
demanding lobster, caviar,
cashmere sweaters, fur coats
even as she inches past ninety-two.
Not much longer now says—
promises—nurse Betsy
again & again.

I buy a casket from Amazon,
the god of good things.
Walnut mahogany with gold trim,
a creamy satin lining.
A perfect fit for my mother
who has drained my life savings
with her assisted—insisted—living
in Somerset House costing
over eight grand a month.
A private home in a gated
community with salt water pools,
24 hour concierge service,
a five star restaurant.
None of which she ever uses
insisting on staying in bed
& being waited on by her only—
entirely depleted—daughter.

The casket arrived today.
I am lying in it now,
basking in the satin lining
after bottles of valium and vodka.
My turn to be first.

Claire Scott is an award winning poet who has received multiple Pushcart Prize nominations. Her work has been accepted by the *Atlanta Review*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Enizagam* and *Healing Muse* among others. Claire is the author of *Waiting to be Called* and the co-author of *Unfolding in Light: A Sisters' Journey in Photography and Poetry*.