

## Poetry

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When I say  
Thank you for caring for me today,  
I am not merely thanking you for just doing your job,  
The job for which you trained  
Through countless books, coffee breaks, and examinations

I mean thank you for caring for me  
As if I were your grandfather,  
Frail in the bleak of winter,  
When all of my neighbors have migrated south  
To soak in the warmth of the Atlantic Ocean,  
And I am left alone, wondering how I could  
Motivate my grandchildren to come visit,  
While being paralyzed due to a cold  
That seeps into my bones

So when I say that I am thankful for your care,  
I mean that I appreciate that you remember  
That Carnival is my favorite holiday,  
And that you recommend books for me to read  
Based on my fascination with magic realism

**Competing interests.** The author declares no conflicts of interest.