In Extremis

Kevin Hadduck, MA

father, two weeks before

You draw back your hands
so another cannot dress you.
They take you against your will.

You assail them, fist and foot.
You pull their hair, and in your fear,
accuse them and refuse to eat.

I have loved you my whole life,
even then beneath the weight
of the heavy hand I hated.

They lay their hands on you now,
but this was never how I hoped
our melodrama would end.

You leave us near your end,
as the father we began with,
but helpless now, as we were then.