

The Prairie Light Review

Volume 13

Number 2 *Peak Through The Window*

Article 39

Spring 5-1-1994

Fading Away

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Recommended Citation

Grott Ebeling, Linda (1994) "Fading Away," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 13 : No. 2 , Article 39.
Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol13/iss2/39>

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Fading Away

Linda Grott Ebeling

How many more years
Before you leave me
Mother
Before cancer atrophies your body
Like apples left too long in a
Dark cellar
You grow thinner and wither
I put my arms around you
to hug you
And I feel only a bony frame
Bent by too many years on hands and knees in the garden
Giving of your strength so that
Something fragile and beautiful might grow

You almost didn't plant geraniums this year
Afraid you would not live to see them bloom
But here you are
Still Alive
But fearing life as much as you do death

I hate what cancer has done to you
Eroded your confidence
Closed your mind
Made you fearful of nursing homes
And what, if anything
Lies beyond Death

How can I make peace with you
In these your final years
When you cannot make peace with yourself
Or with God