

## That Photo

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There is something about that photo.  
Could it be that her eye shadow  
matches the color of the sky?  
Or its uncommon graininess,  
revealing its status as an artifact of the past?  
Perhaps it's her smiling at something off camera,  
her head cocked to the side,  
and how she's looking at it  
so you can't see straight into her eyes  
that leaves you wondering what has her attention.  
Perhaps it's the way she is hunched over  
with her fingers fanned out on her thighs  
as if they were the bones of wings ready to fly.

But it's none of those things.  
It's a photo of my mother  
before her stroke  
probably smiling at her children,  
perhaps even me on the beach, when she was happy and even the dark sky  
seemed to light up when she smiled.

