

Miriam Manglani

When I Am Dead

When I am dead my dear,
you must kiss our children
every night before bed
as if my your lips were mine.

Please start lifting weights —
it's good for you and will give you strong,
beefy arms that feel like mine
so when you hug our children every night
they will feel as if it's me hugging them.

You must tell them I love them over and over again
and that I am with them in the air they breathe,
the things they love and touch,
and their tiny hearts that are growing
bigger and stronger every day.

You must remember
that I'm with you too —
you can see me in your shadow and reflection,
your image cast on the world.

Please talk to me as I will be lonely without you, My Sweetie.
I'll be able to hear you with my invisible ears
and see you with invisible eyes.
I'll be in the spaces between the leaves and grains of sand,
between the waves that lap the shore,
between your heart and the world.