

You Don't Want To Go

When you go to the Newton-Wellesley Hospital
you don't want to go to the west wing

when you go to the west wing
you don't want to go to the fourth floor

when you go to the fourth floor
you don't want to go to the oncology unit

when you go to the oncology unit
you don't want to talk to Dr. O'Connor about your mother's tests

when you talk to Dr. O'Connor about your mother's tests
you don't want to hear *malignant*

when you hear malignant
you don't want to look at her in bed small and frail

when you look at her in bed small and frail
you don't want to think *this is my mother*

when you think this is my mother
you don't want to leave the hospital

when you leave the hospital
you don't want to go out into the cold November night
you go out into the cold November night