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Mind Games

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Mind Games

by Jeri Schelhaas

If

I ignore the daily spray of three inch hairs
on the bathroom sink
that could mean you're going bald,

And if I ignore the scientific evidence
that the narrow pill I take
to prevent a permanent slouch
could cause cancer,

And if I just forget
that I can't remember who wrote *Paradise Lost*
and that you called home last week dialing
your social security number,

And if I just pretend
that my father's early stroke
and your mother's early death
never really happened,

Then

I will laugh with you tonight
as we drive six miles out to the cemetery
to watch meteors split the sky
and sprinkle fireflies
on gravestones where we sit.