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BEAUTY UNFADED

By Janice Veldman

*the stench of sleep
lingers on her breath
unnoticed*

*her sleep-tossed graying hair
does not matter
in his eyes
she has everlasting beauty*

*it was her beauty that drew her to him
his love grew roots into that beauty
a romance grew from its sprouts
expecting a lifetime
of closeness and intimacy*

now that beauty has faded away

*he commands a new post
always on alert
in the morning rises from a sleepless night
his tired body moves into action
a routine he knows well
willing to alter if she becomes confused*

*he assists, comforts, holds, soothes her
what she was able to do
he now does for her
he chokes away his fears
replacing those with a smile
he aims to please her
though never confident that he does*

*she is his and he is hers
at least he hopes it is so*

Credits:

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See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Beauty-Unfaded>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Beauty-Unfaded>