

## Dirty Old Man, Chronologist

After a certain age, say fifty,  
the only people who can break your heart  
are your children, if you have any.

After a certain age, say fifty-five,  
you learn to settle for less,  
then cut that in half.

After a certain age, say sixty,  
you begin remembering things  
that you would prefer to forget.

After a certain age, say sixty-five,  
you believe that nothing can hurt you,  
not even your children.

After a certain age, say seventy,  
if you can still dance, you don't waste  
your time on wallflowers.

After a certain age, say seventy-five,  
you choose to live on an island  
and you are selective about visitors.

After a certain age, say eighty,  
you will have one foot in the grave  
but you will still want something.

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