

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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