

## "Faith in Narrative"

*By Ann E. Wallace*

My neurologist likes to talk of Oliver Sacks,  
of faith and stories, of writing one's way through  
metastatic cancer. Pulling a copy of Sabbath posted  
on the office fridge, he made a copy for me to take home.

In graduate school, my advisor liked to talk  
of Oliver Sacks, of stories and medicine, of the ways the brain  
can be rewired by disease so perfectly illogically  
that a man might mistake his wife for a hat.

I sat in seminars talking of literature and medicine, and  
the magic that a brain performs to maintain the thread of life,  
with a faith in narrative so fierce that we will inhabit  
a Mad Lib of new signifiers rather than let our story die.

In graduate school, I liked to talk of Oliver Sacks,  
the disruptive beauty of his stories set against the brutal  
pain of the cancer stories I read, that I had lived, unaware  
how seamlessly my wayward brain could cross those signals.

Ann E. Wallace writes poetry and nonfiction about traumatic memory, loss, and illness. Her work has recently appeared in *Intima*, *Wordgathering*, *The Literary Nest*, *Eunoia Review*, *Rogue Agent*, *Mothers Always Write*, and *Raising her Voice: An Anthology of Women Writers*. She teaches English at New Jersey City University and can be found on Twitter @annwlace409.

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OTHER &  
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