

Trapped by Jennifer Lagier

For eighty years
he hauled himself
up and down Sierra canyons
to cast a line, hook rainbow trout.
Now, after a botched surgery,
my father is immobile,
diagnosed with congestive heart failure,
put on oxygen, 13 medications,
confined to the house.
Mom has confiscated his truck keys
so he can't escape to the orchard
with his Ford Explorer and dog.
Swim sessions at the YMCA
are a thing of the past.
Dad is an outdoor man,
needs dirt beneath his boots,
a rifle in his hands,
feels trapped and depressed.
Every indoor hour lasts for centuries.
His connections with
a world now denied
are TV, a cell phone.
Through windows he watches
life grow smaller,
the walls claustrophobic,
as numbered days drag.

Jennifer Lagier's website is: <http://jlagier.net>