



*She only had a 4th grade education;  
But Grandma possessed more wisdom than anyone  
I have ever known.*

*She didn't go to medical school;  
But her hands on a fevered brow felt better  
Than any doctor's hands ever could.*

*She never went to seminary;  
But her life was a living testament  
On how to get it right.*

*She always said she didn't know much  
But to me what she knew mattered most.*

*When I was young I loved to be with her -  
Especially on Sundays.  
When it was cold Grandma wore a coat  
With a fur collar.  
I liked to rest my head  
On her shoulder.  
She and her fur collar were soft and comforting.  
She made me feel:  
Safe  
Warm  
Loved.*

*I thought that Grandma was a saint.*

*When she was old and frail  
She fooled every doctor who cared for her.*

*"She won't live through the night," they'd say;  
But she did - for nearly a year.  
"Independence" is what she called her resolve.*

*"I never knew it would be this hard," she'd say;  
But Grandma never let on how hard it really was.  
"She doesn't understand how close to death she is."  
But she did - she planned her own funeral.  
"Keeps the details simple for everyone else."*

*People say:  
"Well, she had a good, long life."  
She did.  
Maybe that's why we miss her so much.*

*When she married, her "Pa" had just died  
So her wedding dress was black.*

*She had a simple wish at the end:  
To wear that 80-year old dress to her grave.  
She did.*

*"Ma, why do you want to wear  
that old dress?"  
"Ma, why don't you let me buy you  
a new one?"*

*Her black dress had a collar  
Of ivory lace.  
The collar had not lasted 80 years -  
It was yellowed and frayed.  
Grandma didn't mind:  
"The collar can be replaced, can't it?"  
It was.*

*Because to Grandma, the only dress worth wearing  
at the end,  
Was the one she wore  
at the beginning  
Of her adult life*

*She would have liked how she looked in it.*

*Why did she insist on wearing her wedding dress?  
I know she believed she was going to meet grandpa;  
She hadn't seen him in 22 years.  
Maybe she wanted to meet him  
In death  
Like she had met him  
In life:  
Wearing the same dress she wore  
At the start of their life together  
On earth  
At the start of their life together  
In heaven.*

*It would have been like her to think so.*

## Credits:

From a book of poetry, entitled *Life is a Non-Stop Event*, by Carole Bos.

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### Losing Grandma

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