

## My Last Hike

no bones were broken  
just bloody scrapes and bruises  
face down in red dust

loose sand on slick rocks  
my aging reflexes lagged  
as if paralyzed

close calls teach lessons  
averted catastrophes  
draw one's attention

youth's brash carelessness  
fades to old man's spooked caution  
later years at risk

I've had my fair share  
good luck's limited supply  
I'll choose flatter trails



Photo by Susan a few minutes before the crash in Canyonlands NP, Moab, Utah

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