1980

Castles

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Build a castle for my mother
for she has suffered more than
I imagined anyone could.
Her silent pain, her private fears
were invisible to those who loved her.

Build another for my father
for he has carried the suffering
long after my mother’s had ended.
His personal grief for losing
a part of his life burdens him still.

Carve the castle out of gold,
and make it strong and tall,
It will be a symbol of the
everlasting love they shared together.

Place the castle on a cliff
overlooking sandy shores.
Let it guard the flowing tides
that swallow seashells
like dreams that will never surface.

THERESA POLLOCK