The Visit

Patricia Edwards*

*Iowa State University

Copyright ©1974 by the authors. Sketch is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).
http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/sketch
"The Visit"

by Patricia Edwards
English and Journalism, Junior

They rouged the cracked china-doll cheeks,
Bowed a pink ribbon in her hair,
to dress up the 80-year-old
for a visit from her relatives.

We sit beside the barred bed,
Uneasy at the living funeral.

Touching her ribbon on her head
she smiles at the wall.

She murmurs "Yes, yes, I remember, I really do."
But the pale eyes fold back
behind skin as transparent as tissue.

As we leave, silent white shoes
undress her and put her away,
Unbroken.