

Long drive home after

a difficult diagnosis

by [Laura Grace Weldon](#) in the [February 26, 2020](#) issue

You point out substantial brick buildings gone to ruin,  
angry they're left to rot when built to last centuries.

Slow down to shake your head at shattered windows,  
at plywood nailed over once-grand doorways.

I remind you reclamation companies

may turn those bricks and beams

into something new. No response.

I muse about carbon atoms recycling endlessly

from the beginning of time. Death and decay

liberate them to become something new.

What we eat grows in decay,

then dies to feed us.

Death, transformed,

fuels our drive back from the doctor.

Whatever is undoing itself inside you,

inside me, is a response

to atoms seeking to know

what it means to be everything.