

Care? Take her.
No one wants to be her caretaker.
Even though she cared for you. For yours.
Uniforms starched stiff
The whitest blouses in the community
She washed your son's pissy sheets when he was 12!

Care? Take her.
No need to feed her
Bread and water is good afterall
Doesn't anyone see the bones under her shawl?
No teeth left-beg you for some porridge, please?

Care? Take her.
Bed things a week old
Fingernails might as well be tools
The new chair installed for comfort is used by your son
Laying in her bed all day, I guess that's best for everyone.

Care? Take her.
I remember the youngest daughter.
She left the house to have her own daughter,
Who came to care for the daughters?
Or don't You remember?

Why doesn't anyone want to be her caretaker?

I'll take her.

In this soft bed your body disappears
You don't weigh enough.
Can't see far enough
Hands tremble because you are not tough
Oh Esma! They've starved you.
In broad daylight, no one acknowledges the neglect
One visit and I saw the size of your arm, your neck
She's fine, they tell me. No need to worry.
So I waited and now I'm the one that's sorry.