

# Acceptance Speech

## For My Father

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*I don't know how you do it*  
a loved one confides.

*You're amazing, my hero*  
applauds a second.

*Your resolve inspires us all*  
declares another.

Such praise—such effusive praise!  
from adoring fans  
for his latest role in life  
man with Parkinson's.

He wants to tell them the truth  
what it's really like  
to be typecast in such a  
restrictive disease.  
That appearances can be  
deceiving, that if  
all the world's a stage he wants  
to exit. Instead—

He thanks them and from behind  
masked facies forces  
a smile. *I couldn't do it*  
*without my family*  
*and friends, God, doctors, the drugs*  
so on and so forth.

*I'm so very blessed.* He sighs.

He wishes he could believe  
the words he's saying.

*For someone somewhere out there*  
he tells them, *it's worse.*

He tries not to cry—promised  
himself he wouldn't.

*It can always be much worse.*

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