

"My Tumor"

I just want to shrink away to nothing
Then there will be nothing left but
my tumor.

My tumor will be all that people see
will be the Me
I present to the world

The strongest part of me
My tumor—
for the rest of me was
too weak
too vulnerable
too sensitive
to survive.

Only my tumor
had the bold audacity
to claim its rightful place,
Hard and proud and persistent
pushing through
despite my best efforts
at annihilation.

But I really didn't want a fight,
after all,
just a slow slipping away
a surrender
to the stronger force
the self-doubting, self-destructive, self-defeating me:
My tumor.

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