

**Claudia Wolff**  
**Closing Scenes with our**  
**Parents**

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We imagine what it will be like, but the reality is always quite different. Claudia Wolff movingly describes a farewell to one's parents, a final expedition to the heart of the family. The daughter, who sees herself aging, experiences the death of her father and the helplessness and sudden decline of her widowed mother. She finds herself on an emotional roller coaster: reason is to no avail, she feels wretched, panic-stricken, furious. She longs to be close to her mother but cannot bear it when her mother forgets, the way she slips into dementia. The daughter finds herself in a desperate state of rebellion, as if it were in her mother's power to remain the way she had always known her. Feelings of guilt merge with her rebellion: she organizes her mother's move to a residential home because she cannot live with her. Ambivalence: it takes a long time for the daughter to come to terms, to feel love again, to reach an understanding with her mother.



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