Where She Always Was

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The doctor tells him to walk
five minutes a day, then ten, then all the way
to the letterbox. Instead he rests in
the leather chair his own father
wore the grain down on, no longer
rocking, not doing his stretches.

After his pills he arches
his knees up just till his hands can reach
to nick off his slippers,
turns his wife’s favorite Dvořák louder,
sets down his glasses and rubs
the furrow of skin blurred red,
then flicks off
every light in the world
with his cane’s blunt tip,
and journeys out.