**Father's Old Blue Cardigan**

Now it hangs on the back of the kitchen chair  
where I always sit, as it did  
on the back of the kitchen chair where he always sat.

I put it on whenever I come in,  
as he did, stamping  
the snow from his boots.

I put it on and sit in the dark.  
He would not have done this.  
Coldness comes paring down from the moonbone in the sky.

His laws were a secret.  
But I remember the moment at which I knew  
he was going mad inside his laws.

He was standing at the turn of the driveway when I arrived.  
He had on the blue cardigan with the buttons done up all the way to the top.  
Not only because it was a hot July afternoon

but the look on his face —  
as a small child who has been dressed by some aunt early in the morning  
for a long trip

on cold trains and windy platforms  
will sit very straight at the edge of his seat  
while the shadows like long fingers

over the haystacks that sweep past  
keep shocking him  
because he is riding backwards.

Anne Carson