

Leaf Skeleton

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*Frail (n): the name given to a leaf when the flesh
has rotted away and only the network of veins remains.*

aged ninety-four, my mother
has become a *frail*. her skin,
thinned to the point of disintegration
reveals the map of her veins,
the network of capillary threads
that keep her whole.

her bones have become chalk.
a fragile skeleton, delicate
as the leaves that lie
on the brink of becoming earth.
frail. gently, carefully I
explore the word: frail.
my mother has become a *frail*.