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My Brilliant Career

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SUSAN AYRES

My Brilliant Career

“Parenting has been the central satisfaction in my life.”

—Elizabeth Bartholet,
Harvard Law Professor

I thought about you today, Betsy,
another harried morning
as we struggled to serve breakfast, pack lunches,
make beds, practice piano, brush teeth.
This morning, Daniel had a nosebleed as we pulled
up to school, and I tried not to be exasperated,
saying to my eight-year-old,
“Just blot your nose, don’t rub it!”
“You want the blood to coagulate.”
Knowing he didn’t understand “coagulate,”
I tried to distract him with a big word.

Eight-thirty and I was already whipped.
Still on my way to my brilliant career.