

Sliding Down
Michael Rabow, MD

Bodega Bay
April 6, 2021

Every parent knows the question,
A suggestion, really,
Asked and offered with nothing but love--
No challenge to independence
Or skill or bravery.

Do you want to
Slide down on your butt?
Just the hard part
Just the steepest part
With the eroded soil
And the rotted wooden planks.

Here was my beautiful wife
Asking me
A grown man
Her man
With whom she'll stick,
No matter what,
Even after the MS progresses further
And I cannot even slide anymore.

Bristling a little with the question,
I wondered privately
How *will* I get down?
And do I really deserve
such a sweet woman
Caring if I do?