

Kathy

Laura A. Panos[†]

Driving down
Longwood Avenue
the sign
reads
“Dana Farber
Cancer Institute.”

The best in
the country
could not
prevent
the loss of your
ovaries
the loss of your
breast
the loss of your
womanhood.

But mother
this is what makes you
a woman:

Not your
female parts,

but the part
of you that
can accept
being torn
apart.

[†] Laura A. Panos is currently Legal Counsel for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. I would like to dedicate this poem to my mother, Kathy, for all her inspiration.

