

MY MOTHER, HER FOOT BANGING THE SIDE OF THE BED IN A
WAY I'D NEVER

noticed, can just
read with one eye
advertisements of
refrigerators,
"Honey, look I want
to get you one and
don't say no -- listen
I was stupid, never
took what I should
have. If I had
there'd be more for
you now honey. I
shouldn't have just
let my brothers
take and take, or
terrify Nanny so
she wouldn't ask,
just signed. I
trusted my brothers,
it took me years to
see how they lived
and cheated, even
after they said
I gave Herbert
pancreas cancer.
Selling the store
on the sly and they
took the money Nanny
wanted for me. So
honey take what you
can. Even I've done,
tho I never knew it,
things that have
hurt you. Everyone
else, if you're not
careful, will try.

ON THE LAST DAY
OF MY MOTHER'S VISIT

"I'll leave the corn
flakes and puffed wheat
if you think you'll
eat it, it will be
too stale for me if I
ever come back -- I
won't have to worry
about the New York
State seat belt law,
I won't be driving any
where near it, zip up
your bag did you write
down your checks, put
the newspaper in the bag,
I told you it would
blow around, told you
to check the water. Do
you have to write words
down all the time -- look
drop me off, I'll never
get lobster, I hope you've
enough money yourself
the way you eat -- don't
wait for the bus. I know
you're in a hurry Lyn
honey don't cry I didn't
mean, now I'll bawl all
the way home. The corn
flakes, I just wanted
you to eat them, I
don't want to make you
feel bad, you're
all that matters."

MADONNA WHOSE MOTHER KEEPS HER ON A ROPE

with the phone, the
wire an unbillical
cord, a leash like
someone who ties up
a kitten so tight it
strangles itself

LOCKET MADONNA

hangs on you