

What Any Gay Man Over 60 Might Tell You About Pandemics

He might tell you about Tetherball
Glory and being playground champ,
how they teased him, how he chose
it as his drag name. He might laugh,

tell you to stock up on vodka, keep it
in the freezer with your optimism, buy
a durable dark suit and do your best
not to disappear. He might tell you

how little the government will think
of you, your test result and COBRA
premium. He might quote McLuhan:
the medium is the message, tell you

to pay attention – it's all around you,
a helix singing Joni Mitchell, *Come
with me I know the way. It's down,
down, down the dark ladder*: names

on a quilt, panels turned every hour,
pinwheels in a breathless time. You
walk away and he might say, *Look
down. You're already in the snare.*

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