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JEAN CHOW

Being Five

Running along the road,
 The five year old, my daughter
 The same age as those 16 who perished through tragedy
 Dunblane, Scotland, 1996
 Those poor parents who would never hear the voices
 Challenging those around for a race
 I saw with my own eyes and heart what those anguished
 hearts would miss
 Do you want to race?
 Come on mummy!
 I'll beat you!
 Hair flying as her body bounces with her five-year-old
 run
 Her face looking back for a glimpse of her lead
 I beat you!
 She lurches to a stop when she decides the race is over
 Lift me up!
 I hold her small thin body with her chest heaving from
 the race
 She plants a kiss on my lips
 Her eyes sparkle with life, her cheeks glow with the
 colors of exertion
 Her voice delights in life
 Returning home, she collects rocks
 Plain old rocks but to her, the rocks are treasures
 She is my treasure
 I have only learned to appreciate more
 From the sorrow of others
 Seeing her gives me great joy

Jean Chow is a Canadian who is currently discovering her cultural roots in Hong Kong and China.