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**CAROLYNE  
VAN DER MEER**

**The baby in her belly  
(Part II)**

59 days  
8 hours  
and 23 minutes  
more  
you stayed inside  
you said there  
was no purchase  
that it did not  
feel like  
home

Yet a part of you  
stayed  
grabbing  
scraping  
pulling at my  
insides  
swelling, burning  
*No, mommy,*  
you said  
*it's not time yet*

Then wordlessly  
calmly  
you let go  
went with the flow  
swam outside  
your legacy  
finally gone  
pain  
subsides

*Carolyn Van Der Meer's  
poetry appears earlier in this  
volume.*