

ALISON PRYER

Ange-Aimée

Late,
after the frosted earth of a harsh childhood
had thawed over a springtime
of slow healing,
I yielded
to the promise of summer,
and turned to warm
in the sun.

I had known the bleeding of miscarriage,
the agony of days flowing silently
in a cold stream
of loss and dread.
I prayed
for you
to stay with me,
fearing you too would leave.

But my belly swelled
with love and dreams,
carrying the certainty of
your kicking, turning body.
I gave birth to you,
and you gave birth to me,
lavishing me with motherhood
as you began life.

Now nested in bliss
beneath cream sheets,
I keep time
to your steady breath –
your chubby wrists, curled fingers,
and rosy flush of contentment
confirming the perfection
of the universe.

Before drifting to sleep
I hoard tiny details
of you, my precious girl –
your skin, your ringlets,
your eyelashes –
hoping that in autumn days
I might return to these moments
of quiet joy.

*Alison Pryer has taught in German and Japanese schools,
and at the University of British Columbia. Last year she
completed a Ph.D in Education, and also became a mother.*

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