

Home

You were my favorite home
Week by week I filled
The hollow space within you
As I went from poppy seed to coconut
You and I were intertwined
And life flowed from you
I could've stayed in that safe haven forever
But a new journey awaited us
And it didn't care that it was too soon
For this fragile life to come
I held my breath
And listened for you
You held your breath
And listened for me
As the tears I couldn't cry
Rolled down your face

My next home tried to imitate
The oasis I found in you
But could never get it quite right
Enclosed in the hard, plastic box
Blue fluorescent lights hovered above me
Entangled in a web of wires and tubes
Tiny fingers curled into a fist
But I was unprepared for this fight
Did you know that I was ready to go
Is that why you freed me from my bondage
Held me close to your chest
Breaths synchronized
Until mine fell silent

My forever home is a desert night
Surrounded by an infinite darkness
Wrapped in white cotton that smells like you
The ache of leaving you
Fresher than the flowers you bring for me
Bury your pain beside my small limbs
Knowing that you and I
Will always be connected
Across seasons and lifetimes
From dust to dust

—Ludhe Naika Gernier, MD

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