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## After the Truce

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The spent munitions spread  
across streets and alleys  
entice children looking  
for something to play with,  
all their toys among  
the collateral damage of war.

Their hungry mothers, frightened  
their offspring will be drawn  
to combat, dread the sight  
of these deadly souvenirs,  
reminders of all they have lost:  
husbands, sons, home; reminders  
of why they can't afford enough  
food for their famished children.

The mothers remember  
when their own fathers  
took them to the beach,  
the delicate shells they collected,  
not these hollow shells  
that left so many hollow people  
roaming the shattered streets  
and alleys of their hometown.