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## Tiny Hands

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JULIA ANDERSEN *tiny hands*

Quick light feet like raindrops  
on hardwood floors in the night—  
the bathroom light clicks on,  
blinding bright until the door  
sweeps shut; the edges leak  
soft streaks across the hall.

Soft rushing sounds; the water faucet  
squeaks when she turns it on and off again.  
The pipes complain, briefly.  
The bottom of the cup clacks  
against the countertop.

O daughter, hidden now  
behind the bathroom door,  
you hold so much

in your little hands—  
this moment, my heart, the cool clear plastic  
of a water cup.  
In time I feel  
you will come to command the seas;  
you will hold aloft your plastic water cup  
and with a beautiful battle cry let me know  
that bath time should be postponed, that  
rubber sharks and plastic boats are required  
when the time comes. When the time comes,  
I feel you will fashion your own raft and push off,  
send me spinning in the current  
when you launch yourself, heedless and hopeful  
and young. Only keep me safe in your mind,  
and even drowned I will never die.  
You are infinite to me,

nothing less than a galaxy in girl form;  
the world should sit in awe  
in the palm of your hands.

Swish—excess water  
down the drain. The light  
clicks off, the door  
sweeps open. Moonlight tosses  
soft banners across the hall.  
Quick light feet like raindrops  
on hardwood floors in the night—  
my lovely little future  
returns to bed.