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I Miss Mama

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I walk down the sidewalk
Toward the little cemetery
I am so sad

After awhile I stop crying
It is a sunny, warm day
I feel OK...now

There are people everywhere
Sunday Mass is over at Nyumbani
No one follows me

Mum Caro smiles at me
I point to the play yard
Away we go

I can not stop crying
I miss Mama so much
I wish I wasn't sick

Coming towards me is Mum Caro
She can see I am crying and I wonder...
Does she know Mama died when I was 9?

I am 11 now
Does she know I am sick because of HIV?
Does she know my uncle can't afford medicine for me?

I don't understand what she is saying to me
She speaks English...I speak Kikuyu
It doesn't matter

She knows I am sad
I point to the cemetery
Her gentle eyes tell me we'll go there

Mum Caro takes my hand
Slowly...carefully...we walk into the cemetery
It helps me remember my Mama

She sits in the dirt and reaches for me
I don't want her pants to get dirty
Mum Caro motions that it is OK
I plop into her lap
Hugging her so tight
She feels like my Mama

Mum Caro prays
I feel safe in her arms
As I sob and sob and...