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And I Will Drown

Karen Steltman

Last night, as I sponged off her slippery, innocent skin,
my little baby told me she was afraid
of falling down the drain.

And I laughed and patted her soapy curls reassuringly.

But what I didn't tell her is that
I'm scared to death,
because I have slid into a hole
and I am hanging off the edge by my bare fingertips,
and the pain is ripping through
my hands,
my arms,
my shoulders.

And one of these nights,
her soap suds will make me let go