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Her Ringtone Used To Be Seagulls

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HER RINGTONE USED TO BE SEAGULLS

Because she chased the beach,
seashell wallpaper trim discarded,
boxed away
and never quite put up like it was supposed to.

Her ringtone used to be seagulls,
but that was years ago before she switched phones
and the seagulls never quite made it back.

The whole house was supposed to be nautical-themed,
but I took down the old ship's wheel clock missing its batteries
and the maps of the world never made it out of the bathrooms.

She still loves the beach,
still flies a thousand miles just for the sand
she collects with the seashells
in old jars and containers.

Her ringtone used to be seagulls,
and I used to have a dozen different associations of "mom"
whose only fatal flaws were being from a younger me,
and dad moved out last year after the basement tiles finally went in
and fifteen years of house makes carpet and tile two different shades of blue.

My house is a world of unfinished projects,
some put on hold for a baby born eighteen years ago
and never started again,
and some of them are the jean jacket I patched the hole in
and never decided what to put on the back of.

RAY MAKOWSKI