

# The Prairie Light Review

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Volume 46  
Number 1 *Fall 2023*

Article 26

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Fall 12-1-2023

## The Hand That Nurtures

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### Recommended Citation

Ferraro, Alyssa (2023) "The Hand That Nurtures," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 46: No. 1, Article 26.  
Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol46/iss1/26>

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I only knew the bad things about you,  
like how you threw mother against a wall,  
I never had a chance to really know you  
because my mother kicked you out.

You threw my mother against a wall  
and who knows what else she never told me.  
After mother kicked you out  
she ripped pages from my baby book.

Who knows what else you did  
that made her destroy the pictures of you?  
She ripped whole pages from my baby book  
I didn't even know what you looked like.

What made her destroy pictures of you  
and never tell me you had other children.  
I didn't even know what you looked like  
or what kind of father you would be

until years later when I met your other children—  
two grown half-brothers—  
and learned you could be a kind father.  
They said they knew you loved me.

Now I have two grown half-brothers  
who say they know you loved me  
though I never had a chance to know you  
and had only known the bad things.

The Hand That Nurtures, Color Photography and Collaging \_Alyssa Ferraro,  
Basilica, Original Sculpture \_Daniel Popper