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Missed kiss

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Poetry

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Tucked between lost socks
And a skipped breakfast
Is a kiss I missed.
This morning she cried
As I left before sunlight
Don't go, Mommy!

For once, my patient is early
She grips a Kleenex
Fiddles with a purse pin
A smiley-faced daisy:
"Every day is a new mercy."
She speaks before I can
The Cancer came back.

I thought I had more time, she says
And I don't know how to disagree
You try not to let it catch you, she says
Her hand slips from the pin.
And when it does, you don't even know it.
But maybe I didn't want to.

Time crashes past, unseeing
I watch it seep between us
For a moment, it stills
Pools at our feet

We sit in its wake
I hold her hand.

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