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Socks

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Socks

Reilly Geritz

Through harshly-lit hallways with cold linoleum tiles,
In bare rooms empty but for monochrome couches,
Past the doorways that restrain my neighbors' mutterings,
I pad languidly
With dulled eyes scanning listlessly
For just *one* sunbeam—
From a place where
Sweatshirts had strings
Mattresses had sheets
Roommates had smiles
And socks could make ice skaters
out of my sister and me.

The “regulars” tell me we’re safer here
Than in a place that allows slipping—
But I don’t feel any safer
In a box with the thoughts that got me here.

The one thing they gave us
Is socks that stick to this earth
In the hopes
That we will
Too.