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# While I Wait

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## While I wait

for the pot to fill—  
strong coffee takes longer to drip—  
and open the quiet door  
a bit wider, I let the answering machine  
silence an old friend  
because she reminds me  
how cappuccino tastes  
outside the moments  
spent in sage  
green coffee shops, our spines  
pressed into cherry  
slats of mismatched chairs,  
while restless feet work the rungs  
loose from the legs,  
as she tells me  
*there's so much more than this  
to live for—*  
while I wince-swallow  
blistered foam, try  
to figure out why I asked  
for cappuccino  
and not jamocha  
or espresso,  
and why I don't  
order one anyway,  
and I pretend to read  
her flight itinerary, follow a trail  
of straightened coffee spoons  
dropped on mahogany hard-wood  
floors, while footprints carry in  
pastel dust from poems  
chalked on the sidewalk,  
and bouquets of white napkin roses  
bloom on twisted strawpaper  
stems inside empty  
chipped ceramic mugs  
still sticky with words.

*Trish Lindsey Jagers*