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## Stain

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NIKKI ROOZEBOOM

## Stain

Almost three, my nephew took the Crayola  
In brick red and scrawled his masterpiece  
On the pristine eggshell walls—  
A Pollock mural, or a seismogram off-kilter.  
Lysol, Windex, WD-40 all resisted  
As his mother chided and scrubbed.

Six weeks in, and I scrubbed at the linens  
With my fists, the soapy foam dyed  
Rust-color. Probably a chromosomal  
Abnormality, the OB/GYN had said,  
Not my fault—the chromosomes'.  
The bleach stung at my nails and eyes.