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## In My Mother's Room

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**In My Mother's Room**  
by Joyce K. Luzzi

In my mother's living room the plants all hang around like striped-shirt prisoners, been on a one way ride to execution even before they left their pods, and the curtains seem to be waiting, sagged and reluctant, for a blast of heat to blow live air into their nylon ninon lungs; the rug looks like dead roses, in fact the color's called dusty rose, popular forty years ago and now come round again; my mother spends a lot of time there making wretched gurgling sounds in her throat, grunts, groans designed to coax a stupid bird to sing but I don't think his species ever knew how to sing in the first place nor in all the time I've known him even tried to learn.