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Uncoupling

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HONORABLE MENTION
MILTON KESSLER MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR POETRY

Uncoupling
by Devorah Namm

She took the gravy boat from Venice
Left behind ceramic mugs
Insides stained like yellowish teeth
Decorative shapes of open mouth fish
Hardly recognizable
Like the faded memories of the
Caribbean trip where they danced
Their way around the pill box of an island
Drank one too many Bahama Mama's
Left small puddles of half digested
Crab legs, baby shrimp parts
When the glass bottom boat lurched
During a sudden rain storm
And they lost their balance from the inside out.

After the affair
They settled in separate islands in the house
The front stoop a drawbridge they crossed each evening
Her eyes glazed from the pretense
His eyes watery with regret.
At night he held her like a new bride
While she trembled
Grew fins, small teeth
Her body floating away
Like a goldfish on the surface of a tank
Not quite dead
One eye open, searching for
Fresh air, open space.