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Entry 5

Kendall Marie Rogers

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ENTRY 5 Kendall Marie Rogers

Half an Inch

Kaitlin FitzRandolph

I love new shampoo days.
It's one of those things,
like a single fresh flower in a glass
or getting a real letter in the mail-
things that bring a surprising sense of happiness
with pure simplicity.
I bring my new shampoo home
with its fresh scent, perfect shiny label
and set it in my shower.
Then I realize I have lined it up
with an entire row of old shampoo bottles,
the ones with half an inch left-
half an inch of a scent so familiar
my brain doesn't recognize its beauty anymore.
Old bottles whose unique label designs
now seem uninspired,
who have withered with neglect to that
perfect point of comfortable nostalgia.
They sit there glaring at me every day
as I reach for my new shampoo.
I loathe them.
Yet I can't bring myself to throw them away,
no matter how desperately I want to.
So I am left with a confusing cluster of old and new,
memories of the past-
a half an inch of guilt.