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The Lovely Words, Postcards From Beyond

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HOW HYPOCHONDRIACS SAY 'I LOVE YOU'

Lissie K. Mays

I was sure I would die from
a piece of plastic I swallowed
A sticker on an apple

I was just seven
"Uh-oh," I thought.
"Will I go to heaven?"

I was sure I would go mad if
I thought something bad and
didn't tell my mom.

Didn't matter if I meant it
If I thought it,
It was real

I was twelve, I suppose
Who knows?

A sting meant
nodes

An ache
scoliosis

A twinge was
a torn hamstring

A tickle
cystic fibrosis

Must.
Touch.
Both.
Faucet.
Handles.

Hot and cold
Doesn't matter which is needed
just so long as I
take hold

THE LOVELY WORDS POSTCARDS FROM BEYOND

Dallie Clark

