

# Forces

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## Cherries

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## Peeling an Orange

Beth T. Ayers

I watched you peel an orange this morning,  
observed the way you sliced into it with a knife,  
just deep enough to get it started, then  
you dug fingertips between the peel and the  
juice-filled pulp, pressing with just enough pressure to  
separate the two. You pulled away a piece of  
the bright orange protection to reveal a glimpse of  
sweet fruit. My mouth watered in anticipation.  
I knew you would share.

We share everything: greatest joys, deepest sorrows,  
fears (founded and unfounded fears).  
We share our hope for tomorrows and appreciation  
for today, and as I wait to reach my hand across the table  
to meet yours, to lightly brush your sticky fingers with mine  
when I accept the freshly peeled, dripping slice of  
sweetness, I have gratitude knowing we share this  
moment of seclusion from a viral, now virtual, world and  
if that microscopic enemy breaches our defenses,  
we'll be together. We share everything.



Cherries • Shea Ameen

We share  
everything:  
greatest joys,  
deepest sorrows, fears  
(founded and unfounded fears).