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Peeling an Orange

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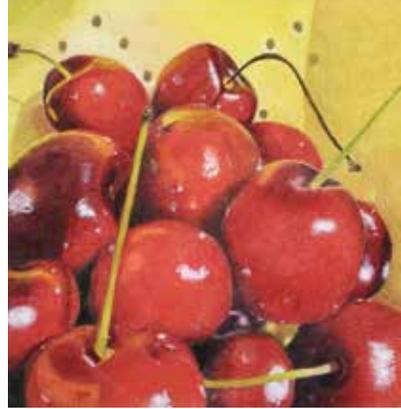
Peeling an Orange

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).