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The Solemn Goodbye

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The Solemn Goodbye

Amanda Duncan

The Sum of Me

Brandon P. Barnhart

Seventy miles an hour down a long country highway
 The beautiful trees wrapping their arms around me
 Reminding me that I'm almost home
 My mind wanders to the sum of my life
 A kaleidoscope of moments that are me

 Riding with Me Maw in her LTD
 Spotting blackberries on the side of the road
 My cousins get out to help
 Standing knee-high in the brush
 Me Maw says, "Y'all watch for snakes!"

I freeze – looking and thinking every stick is a snake
 Sitting in her kitchen
 She drops a handful of berries in a bowl
 With heavy cream and a sprinkle of sugar
 Our reward for helping
 Nothing tasted better

 Spearmint kisses and forever promises
 Under the willow tree by the lake
 Reading our poetry to one another
 Just a couple of crazy, vulnerable kids
 Opening our hearts and souls to one another
 Wasting a summer day together