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My Childhood

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My Childhood

*High School Poetry Competition
Roxi Sliger, First Place
Muscle Shoals High School*

Certain moments
stand clear in my mind
Special times
Of pattering down the hall
In my footy pajamas
Dragging my baby brother
In his footy pajamas
Begging
My parents to let us
Share their chips and dip
And the late night movie.

Remembering family times
With Mom making her specialties:
Lasagna and strawberry shortcake.
And gathering around
Our small table
To enjoy delicious food
Made just for us.

Incidents linger in the crevices of my mind
From when I was four
And my Mom and Dad
Loved each other
And us.

Later incidents linger there
Of yelling,
screaming,
and crying.
And me and my brother
Were taken with Grandma
to her house.

One sunny afternoon,
All seemed well,

I was playing with friends
When I came home
I saw
A slap from my Dad
to my Mom
And red prints on her face,
rage in her eyes.
Dad left.
He didn't come back
for a long time.

Trying to remember—
Only the good times
but the disappointments creep in
Clouding my eyes,
tarnishing the gold,
Destroying the wonder
Of my childhood.