



# PRISM

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## Forgiveness

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Co-winner of the 2001  
Provost's Literary Award

*bubble soap  
dripping on the tile floor  
from a pink plastic bottle  
I ask about your day  
you look up  
half smile  
reach up and tussle your own hair  
I reach down  
to smooth it again  
you shrug and slide down  
dive under the water  
which sloshes over the side  
onto my shoes  
your knobby knees jut out  
and your head stays under  
little bubbles rising  
from your nose and mouth  
come to burst defiantly at the surface  
your eyes are shut tight  
your full grown body  
with old skateboarding scars  
folds awkwardly into the tub  
like a crawler in a cocoon  
immersed in metamorphosis  
I tap on your head  
you sit up and scowl  
I pull up the drain plug  
and we listen to the gurgle  
all intended resentment  
down the drain*