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While I Wait

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While I wait

for the pot to fill—
strong coffee takes longer to drip—
and open the quiet door
a bit wider, I let the answering machine
silence an old friend
because she reminds me
how cappuccino tastes
outside the moments
spent in sage
green coffee shops, our spines
pressed into cherry
slats of mismatched chairs,
while restless feet work the rungs
loose from the legs,
as she tells me
*there's so much more than this
to live for—*
while I wince-swallow
blistered foam, try
to figure out why I asked
for cappuccino
and not jamocha
or espresso,
and why I don't
order one anyway,
and I pretend to read
her flight itinerary, follow a trail
of straightened coffee spoons
dropped on mahogany hard-wood
floors, while footprints carry in
pastel dust from poems
chalked on the sidewalk,
and bouquets of white napkin roses
bloom on twisted strawpaper
stems inside empty
chipped ceramic mugs
still sticky with words.

Trish Lindsey Jagers