

Decision

The cold of the metal bed
swam through the thin paper sheet.

The nurse returned, sat back on her stool
and filled the room with a loud, long squeak.

The stool swiveled my way,
my ears screamed for silence.
Instead she bit her lip
and told me I was pregnant.

It was the first time I had ever felt
nothing.

No urge to blink.

To breathe.

I watched as hot black tar
slipped from her lips.

When I realized they were words

I focused in on them

Menstrual extraction

I was confused

“An abortion, honey”

Clarified.

Even more confused now,

I thought, should I be offended?

As I walked home pressure raced
to the roof of my head.
Then to my legs and they became weak.
Mom came in and sat next to me.

Her closeness alone was enough to fill my nose
with the burning sensation that triggered the tears
The second her hand touched my back
the first tear fell.

From then on they wouldn't stop.
I wouldn't cry that hard again
until later in life when she left the world.

After trying to console me
She finally said,
“you're pregnant aren't you?”
Life would never be the same.

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