

## Twenty

by Madelyn Mancera

At five o'clock in the morning,  
I am a young woman sleeping  
in the deep rest of a twenty year old.  
And at seven a.m. till school starts at nine,  
I am a mommy racing with the clock.  
School ends around five  
which ends my time as student,  
and I clock in as mom again.  
We eat. We clean. We bathe  
and fall asleep embraced.  
He sleeps like a three year old.  
The days pass us by like this,  
always too quickly.  
We welcome the weekend with good-bye  
and a big hello to daddy time.  
It's five o'clock on Friday evening,  
and I am a smiling waitress  
with a long weekend of work ahead.  
At eleven p.m. after those shifts,  
a bright little window appears  
showing me the clock is here.  
I can be a young woman now.  
On my way to clock in to age twenty,  
I try to cross my bed,  
but I'm tired, and I fall asleep instead.

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