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Allemande

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Candace Obetts *Washing Instructions*

Sort through baskets,
shape hills by hue.
Soak and pre-treat
chocolate drips
and the mysterious black smudge.

Bleach whites to budge
gumball drool,
a smirch of paint.
(What does that sign say?)

Slap wet clothing
into dryer,
set to growl an hour.

Fold baked
shirts and pants,
cuff socks together,
stack underpants
too small to fold.

Another load rinsed clean,
victimized by messy eating
and hard play.

But I smile
at the piles
of your presence
and growing independence.

I'm thankful my laundry
is never caught up.

Candace Obetts *Allemande*

Legs braided
with twisted sheets
that rise and fall
to the rhythm of sleep.
Crescendo breaths,
diminuendo,
rest .

A canon broken
by a shrill staccato song
announcing in allegro
the coming of dawn,
dawn blushed pink
like warm baby cheeks
flushed from dewy
summer sleep.

The percussion-like roll
of the blades of the fan
vibrates the air
as the sweet sleep scent
twirls, dips and floats
in the powerful arms
of Daddy's cologne ghost.

The dancing couple tire,
lie down to doze
next to the babies
hammocked in Mama's hold.