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Bloom

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Bloom

Onstage, dancers' feet get all the glory
as pink satin ribbons shine
under hot lights,

but feet are not beautiful.
Callused heels, ingrown toenails,
curled toes

belong underground, like the
gnarled roots of spring blossoms.
Stage-left to stage-right,

legs are the trowel.
In *relevé*, calves bulge—swollen buds
soaked in April rain.

Feet plant the seeds.
With every *pirouette*, *pas de chat*, and
glissade,

stems grow
taller and
taller

until the floor becomes a garden.