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Flower Drops

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Someone who didn't love me left me.
 I haven't asked my family their stories,
 but there's someone I might want to ask to have dinner
 —provisionally. What if he says no?

My Polish professor never spoke of his own post-war
 I bought one of his books after he left
 I hadn't known that's what he'd meant
 But I'd scribbled pidgin rhymes in the margins of my notes
 Because I thought I knew how to feel.

Great-aunt could have been married,
 But was foiled at the last by a rival
 She died alone and
 My baby sister doesn't remember what she looked like.

I wonder why I've never been called a coward?

—Mai-Anh Tran



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