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She and Me

by Mary Soon Lee

She who is me
wants another child
but dares not say so.

I who disown that she
am too old, too busy,
too tired for babies.

She who is me
wants an infant snuggled
against her skin.

I who disown that she
want no children at all,
my husband my own again.

She who is me
wants to live for centuries,
birth an army.

I who disown that she
know there's no guarantee
we have even one more year.

She who is me,
I who disown her,
both of us hushed

when our youngest
climbers onto our lap
to hear a story.