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## Line

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# Line

by Nicole Zuckerman

A line  
invisible  
twisting through rooms,  
around corners  
between cobwebs, and cupboards

Yours

Mine

A line  
thick and dark  
winding around shadows  
like an overgrown thicket  
of barb wire roses

your words leave such dark shadows

I told you  
“I could sail to China  
in a tea cup”

*“dishes are for washing”* you said

“Wouldn’t it be beautiful  
to drive across the skyline  
some summer night?”

*“I don’t make plans  
that far in advance”* you told me

You were the girl  
that never learned to count  
your chickens *before*  
they hatched

they told you not to  
and you have walked on  
egg shells, ever since



Proverbs are for those  
with clean hands  
mine are stained fuchsia  
caked in poetry  
Have you never rolled  
in the mire like  
mud of life  
simply because  
you like the way it feels on your skin?

Some nights  
I lay awake wondering  
if you have ever wept,  
after breaking a fast  
or if you have ever known hunger at all

A line  
A single solitary truth:

Facts are like  
whalebone corsets  
iron cage hoopskirts  
top hats  
falling in and out of fashion

they are the easy way out  
the shortcut to the lion's den  
what you recited as gospel  
and plagiarize as your own free will

A line, invisible  
that you touch  
and wrench  
and yank  
but never  
cross

