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Haltingly

Mattie Shepard
Denison University

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Haltingly

by Mattie Shepard

My lips tasted like
buttered noodles and
tangerine chapstick,

my fingers
smelled like crayons
and industrially washed silverware,

I did not understand
DNA polymerase or eukaryotic cells,

but I knew that no matter
how many times I traced
the scar on my left hand,

it would never
bring me closer to the answers.