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Sun-Child

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sun-child

framed by the kapok
the smear from a juicy
bit of banana
accentuating
her gaping smile;
the child held my eyes
steadily,
hoping to gain
my favor.
“pretty girl,” she called.
her gaze possessed
the humidity
of her land,
staring into my soul—
a look
which warmed me
in an instant
with pinks and tangerines—
clinging,
melting me
into an understanding
as rich and smooth
as steaming coffee

—Jen Rudgers '96