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Day After Beating

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Day After Beating

Erica Hughes – Dordt alum, Ph.D. student at U of Illinois, Chicago

I offered to crack the alabaster
of my child body to heal

the wreckage of us. She sat
beneath the window on our

leather loveseat, in our one-
bedroom apartment—her left

hand curled like a branch
under her chin. I approached,

laid my forehead against
her shoulder. As if to say—

I didn't mean it.

She stiffened—lifted my eager
head from her body. *Now,*

she said, *they'll take you*
from me. I sat in the empty

seat beside her, watching
the light of the afternoon

spill through the blinds,
refracting off white walls,

striping my mother's honey-
brown face blue.