

## 2022 POETRY OURSELVES Runner-up

### Mamá's Porcelain

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Mamá used to buy porcelain plates.  
At five years old I slipped, separating her  
smooth porcelain into several strong, sharp, stabbing  
daggers. I watched as slowly, painstakingly,  
Mamá took the super strength glue  
and stuck the porcelain back together.  
At eight years old I dropped the shiny, pride-  
producing porcelain, creating shiny pitter-patters  
of pain-producing remains of porcelain.  
I watched as slowly, painstakingly, Mamá took the super strength glue  
and stuck the porcelain back together. At thirteen years old I broke the patched, still shiny,  
pride-producing porcelain into strong, sharp stabbing remains of what once were daggers.  
I watched as slowly, painfully,

Mamá took the dustpan and  
tearfully swept the porcelain in  
and away.  
Mamá bought plastic plates.  
They're just as shiny, to the point they mirror.  
Mirror showing reflections of what truly broke  
Mamá's porcelain.  
Plastic is a cheaper investment.  
But plastic doesn't break.