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I brushed my mother's hair

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I brushed my mother's hair

Cover Page Footnote

To those who have brushed mine.

I brushed my mother's hair
Silently, for a spell
The sound of stroking
brush bristles
filled the fibers
of hair and space between us
(it's getting gray)

Like mother, like daughter
Similar smiles
but souls?
The pandemic wreaked havoc
on hers, yet gave me
time to find mine.

Front, back, down
Front, back, down
Nursing the frown on her face
or mine?
I had stopped believing I was one
It's not who I am anymore
It doesn't make me happy
(I changed the part)

With these strokes,
(not those)
I saw that neither was she.

Tears flowed down
Tears flowed down
Traversing the wrinkles on her face
(my mother's face)

Eyes glistening
I'm listening.
Breathing
Not blaming
Not correcting
Just connecting
in a language only we know
(code)

So much of our Identities
have been spent believing
I am a nurse
But what if we are just humans
experiencing nursing
whose souls surrender
to a kind hand
with a comb?



The space between strokes. Photograph by Gina Petersen, 2019.