## Homecoming

## Thandeka Gumede

I'm never sure how to navigate it
How to slip back into the corpse I left behind
To raise it from the ground
And be the girl that I once was, before I left
Each time
It feels as if I am relearning all that I have unlearned

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I am rummaging through all the stuff that my mother gave me

Neatly placed at the corner of my room

For this homecoming

I am wearing shoes that are too tight

Because I am afraid my mother cannot afford new ones

Because for her, tight shoes mean familiarity

They mean bubble of safety

They shout change is hard and I've had hardships enough

I fear that she will never be able to unlearn

And I will always have to shed this skin

In preparation

For my homecoming.

