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Bindweed

Leanne M.R. Charette
University of Waterloo, Waterloo



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Bindweed

We call it my garden, though its soil doesn't know me,
my sterile hands clasped as the earth
runs through the rivers of my mother's palms.

Prayerfully, she kneels
to press a geranium into dirt, knowing
my bindweed legs,
if they kissed ground
might never be pulled from it.

Her own knees calloused
from bending in my place,
coaxing seeds to rise from the earth
the same way she did for me

aligning my twisted vine
spine— binding it into the standing frame,
bidding both wayward tomato and I
stand straight
only for us to rebel

as the ground will one day,
when neither of us can kneel, and the garden,
whose soil never knew me will
break loose

the withered stems of all our labour, overgrown at last
by bindweed's white trumpets
as the tendrils of my
taut tendons
relax into the dust
and burst into flower.

LEANNE CHARETTE (she/her) writes poetry grounded in the experience as a disabled adoptee and mother. Her work has been published by *Vallum*, the League of Canadian Poets, *PRISM International*, and more. She is a settler on the land covered by the Haldimand Tract, in Kitchener, Ontario, where she lives with her husband and twin sons, surrounded by many houseplants.