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Child, Leaving

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CHILD, LEAVING

Points her brown finger
past the prison guards:
Mommy where my daddy?

and then it is wet-mouthed,
Mommy?
where my daddy?

Mommy? Punctuated by the pacifier
suck, such a simple question:
where my daddy?

He upstairs.
Mommy, where?
He inside.
My daddy?

The child's finger swings
over her mother's shoulder
as they bob on down the steps.

She shrugs, points, asks again,
as if for juice: *where my daddy,*
Mommy?