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About Your New Place

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About Your New Place

*—for the Jewish settlers moving into Palestinian
homes in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem*

The bathroom door wouldn't close
so I held it shut for my daughter.
The walls are a thick plaster

and will keep out the rain,
except for a hole at the top
that's plugged with Play-Doh.

Near the square, next to the protests,
you'll find a slide,
where your kids might play.

When we knocked,
the parents insisted—stay.
Oh that's all right, we said,

she just needed to go.
He left the pan on the flame.
She finished praying,

folded her rug, and brought
a bowl of powdered sugar.
You hadn't moved in yet,

and surely never saw
such wretched pipes,
the faucet we had to force shut,

or the likes of those
pastries, the last whiff driven out
in full compliance with the law.