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A Pair of Yellow Gloves

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A pair of yellow rubber gloves
hangs on the clothesline of memories.
Hours of rubbing with soap and water
on the rough washing stone
have battered it down-
the hands.
Exhausted.
Of cooking, cleaning, scrubbing, moping,
Feeding, bathing, serving, praying.
Reading, writing, checking, grading.
Drowned-in a babble of voices
in the winding school stairs-
the hands.
Tired.
Birds come home to roost
in the evening sun, ruby –red.
Groping in the darkness for the familiar pillow
Hard and weathered to size;
After duties to a husband
The hands.
Consumed.
The lines on the palm have lost their way

Criss-crossed

In a mire of chores

The maze of terrifying gyres

Sweating, swooning, panting, gasping, yearning.

The hands.

Drowned.

Wisps of clouds sail under the azure autumn sun.

The hours tiptoe

Around the silent, musty house.

My mother's yellow gloves

Hangs on the clothesline.

Her hands-

Silent and unaccounted.

Bio-Note:

Nikhila Narayanan has over 12 years of experience as an academician. She is currently working as Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Patna Women's College. She is presently engaged in a research related to literature from Northeast India. She devotes her spare time to creative writing and believes that it is art that lends beauty and meaning to life.