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Time Inside

In the sun-slatted room, listen:
the little cat licks, purrs,

stops absent-mindedly.
Eyes narrowed, she suspends you

in amber warmth, lets day fold over you
until, in any mother's belly, dark,

you're less alert to sharp vowels
of children in their bright space,

far from yours. Now deep inside the water bowl,
receiving only mirrored skies,

you hold at bay all that's compass slavery:
sextant, vector, set course.

Somewhere else, heaping up,
are punctual calls unheeded,

terminal clauses tangling.
Here, only tidal intentions:

Sea's surge and trough or wave slap.
Glad within this time sack

that is your life
turned back so future edge, edge past

touch to make the loop now
time out, you are

amniotically buoyed
and rhythmmed with the not-you

beating in your belly,
humming in the traffic's wake.