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Tangerine

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Waipo presents a peeled tangerine
asks if I want it—*yao ma?*—

in the gentlest sigh. I'm afraid to break
the surface of the now-naked fruit,

gentle crimson, clinging
with white skin. It waits for me.

I nod and split it in half
to reveal seeds, waiting to pass on their beauty.

Waipo tells me to slow down,
but I choke and swallow a seed.

Bitter sweetness floats lightly
in my stomach, holding heavy centuries

of history, etched with ridges each ancestor
carved onto its core, waiting to blossom

decades later,
bearing the same sweet fruit.

I give the other half to Waipo,
but she removes the seeds

before popping the whole thing in her mouth,
leaving her, seedless,

and me, growing a tangerine tree
for my granddaughter.

外婆递给我一个去皮的橘子
问我要不要——要吗？——

像微风一样轻声，害怕打扰
裸露的水果表面，

完美的浅橙色与紧贴的
白皮肤。它等着我。

我点头并将它分成两半
透露种子，等待传承它的美。

外婆告诉我慢点，
但是我呛到了并吞了一颗种子。

苦甜略微在我的肚子里
浮起，承载着几个世纪

的历史，刻在每一个祖先的山脊上，
刻在其核心上，等待开花，

几十年后，
结出同样甜美的果实。

我把另一半给外婆，
但她除去了种子

把一整半放进嘴里之前，
留下她，无籽，

和我，生长橘树
给我的孙女。