

A Pantoum for Family*

EVA SONG MARGOLIS

Your mother (birth mother) loved you so much she gave you away
We (mother and father) needed you to complete our family
You were abandoned (reborn) in front of a police station
You were saved (mother and father) from poverty and foreignness

We needed you to complete our family (you will work hard)
Your mother (birth mother) was a prostitute
Not flesh of my flesh, you were born to be saved;
she was a womb

Your mother (birth mother) was a teenager
Your father (birth father) a mystery
She is only a womb
Like her, he fades, so that you can be filled in

Your father (a ghost), *nor bone of my bone*
You were starving at the orphanage
Like her, he fades; orphan #K79-2076
All you needed was love

You were starving under foster care
You are our (mother and father) pride and joy
That we keep you, is love
Look what you've become

You are *still miraculously my own*
We (your only family) could never love you too much?
Look how you belong
Never forget for a single minute

Love requires your continuous giving
Look how a family subsists (you must work hard)
You didn't grow under my heart
(Putty filling that abandoned space)

But in it, you belong so good
We needed you to need us
Look how a family finales
All you needed was love

**Not flesh of my flesh nor bone of my bone, still miraculously my own.
Never forget for a single minute, you didn't grow under my heart,
but in it.* Fleur Conkling Heyliger wrote "Poem for the Adopted
Child," which is commonly presented to children who are adopted.

