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## MY SISTER

By Janice Veldman

*She came  
bringing her presence  
light when I no longer  
could open my eyes  
she knew not to bring flowers  
for they all die  
leaving a stench  
filling the room  
with the unwanted smell of death*

*she came in the winter  
when it was cold  
she brought a bulb  
taking her time  
she gently  
planted the bulb  
deep within the soil of my heart  
leaving with it the hope of spring  
when it would bloom  
bringing a scent  
reminding me of her presence  
she sat next to me  
quietly spoke  
when I no longer could speak  
said thank you  
when I uttered a few grunts  
for she knew me well  
understanding what I said  
took my hand gently squeezed it  
though I could not squeeze hers  
bringing me comfort  
when I no longer could find it on my own*

*she had to leave  
of course, they all have to leave  
but when she left  
she left something behind  
the lingering gift of presence*

*who but her  
could do such a thing  
only one  
my sister*

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/My-Sister>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/My-Sister>