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## Love is Blue (Vassar Miller & Gereighty/Academy '24)

Thi Nguyen

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*2024 Vassar Miller Poetry Award Honorable Mention*

*2024 Andrea Saunders Gereighty/Academy of American Poets Poetry  
First Honorable Mention*

## **Love is Blue**

**Thi Nguyen**

After the fall of Saigon,  
my mother never found the ground steady.  
The weight of her country

cracked opened the world, emptying  
all her possessions from Viet Nam –  
silver crosses, silk áo dàis, a beat-up

CD player - into its pit, leaving her nothing  
but dirt beneath her fingernails.  
The shaking ground followed her

on the refugee boat despite  
escaping the guards who patrolled  
the beaches of Nha Trang.

The ground shuddered further when  
she heard her father had wept  
at finding her empty bed.

But then when she learned  
of her mother's cancer and sudden  
death, the ground rocked so violently

beneath her the abyss split Viet Nam  
from California, impossible to kiss  
goodbye.

Her head began to ache. Nothing  
could console her, unless  
she buried herself beneath her towers  
of French oldies in CD cases,  
humming Paul Mauriat's "Love is Blue"  
to the cracks of the earth, digging

herself back into the pit, hoping  
to hear again her mother's voice:  
singing along,

"Music ...  
How the bright sun shone ...  
Now the rainbow is gone."