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Between

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High on that hill in Oakland, steeped in sweet oranges and roses blooming in the yard.

Across the street, a cluster of raspberry bushes clung to the neighbor's steep yard, tangled with vines and roots of the manzanita trees.

In the mornings, the deck high above the ground was wrapped in fog.

The air fisty and cool, scented with sand and seaweed and fish from San Francisco Bay.

In warmer afternoons, we played hide-and-go-seek and sardines (too many people in one tiny hiding place, breaths swirling together in the darkness).

My favorite hiding spot in between the wall and the closet in my grandparent's bedroom.

Paused at Nana's vanity table, touched the glass perfume bottle and matching mirror and brush, soft bristles tangled with strands of my hair and her hair.

I slipped my body into the hiding space both walls pressing against me, holding me secure.