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third space

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Messiah University is a Christian university of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.

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to the boy who loves soft things and the quiet in-betweens

our minds are unkind to us sometimes
the weather is not always fair —
thunder rumbles and lightning flashes
wind whips around us, steals our breath
sheets of swirling rain obscure our sight

it pelts us until we are soaked through,
wet and weary to the bone
until we think the storm is all there is
all that can and will ever be known

but we have learned that there is light beyond the dark.
this light we need is not bright or flashing
it is the small, tentative beams we warm ourselves with
on early spring days when the chill lingers

together we can bask in this quiet light,
create a gentle oasis in the harsh desert of our minds

let us create a world of softness.
let us pull out our blankets
from dusty bins
and wrap ourselves in them
protect ourselves with vulnerability

there will be a crackling fire in our fireplace
we'll open the heavy curtains that obscure the night
to let the faint light of faraway stars trickle in

we will pull on pajamas and thick socks
let our eyes wander across our wall of books
and select one to read together by the flickering warmth
the fire freely gives us

we will surround ourselves with pillows and sit close,
mugs of hot cocoa in hand
and we will talk in low, intimate voices
and we will laugh deeply
and we will read widely
as a slight wind whispers in our ears

and we will drift off to sleep
our minds empty of worry
our hearts full of love
and we will breathe at last.