

Waiting  
A Poem by Faith Wilding

Waiting . . . waiting . . . waiting . . .  
Waiting for someone to come in  
Waiting for someone to hold me  
Waiting for someone to feed me  
Waiting for someone to change my diaper      Waiting . . .

Waiting to scrawl, to walk, waiting to talk  
Waiting to be cuddled  
Waiting for someone to take me outside  
Waiting for someone to play with me  
Waiting for someone to take me outside  
Waiting for someone to read to me, dress me, tie my shoes  
Waiting for Mommy to brush my hair  
Waiting for her to curl my hair  
Waiting to wear my frilly dress  
Waiting to be a pretty girl  
Waiting to grow up      Waiting . . .

Waiting for my breasts to develop  
Waiting to wear a bra  
Waiting to menstruate  
Waiting to read forbidden books  
Waiting to stop being clumsy  
Waiting to have a good figure  
Waiting for my first date  
Waiting to have a boyfriend  
Waiting to go to a party, to be asked to dance, to dance close  
Waiting to be beautiful  
Waiting for the secret  
Waiting for life to begin      Waiting . . .

Waiting to be somebody  
Waiting to wear makeup  
Waiting for my pimples to go away  
Waiting to wear lipstick, to wear high heels and stockings  
Waiting to get dressed up, to shave my legs  
Waiting to be pretty      Waiting . . .

Waiting for him to notice me, to call me  
Waiting for him to ask me out

Waiting for him to pay attention to me  
Waiting for him to fall in love with me  
Waiting for him to kiss me, touch me, touch my breasts  
Waiting for him to pass my house  
Waiting for him to tell me I'm beautiful  
Waiting for him to ask me to go steady  
Waiting to neck, to make out, waiting to go all the way  
Waiting to smoke, to drink, to stay out late  
Waiting to be a woman                      Waiting . . .  
Waiting for my great love  
Waiting for the perfect man  
Waiting for Mr. Right                      Waiting . . .

Waiting to get married  
Waiting for my wedding day  
Waiting for my wedding night  
Waiting for sex  
Waiting for him to make the first move  
Waiting for him to excite me  
Waiting for him to give me pleasure  
Waiting for him to give me an orgasm                      Waiting . . .  
Waiting for him to come home, to fill my time                      Waiting . . .  
Waiting for my baby to come  
Waiting for my belly to swell  
Waiting for my breasts to fill with milk  
Waiting to feel my baby move  
Waiting for my legs to stop swelling  
Waiting for the first contractions  
Waiting for the contractions to end  
Waiting for the head to emerge  
Waiting for the first scream, the afterbirth  
Waiting to hold my baby  
Waiting for my baby to suck my milk  
Waiting for my baby to stop crying  
Waiting for my baby to sleep through the night  
Waiting for my breasts to dry up  
Waiting to get my figure back, for the stretch marks to go away  
Waiting for some time to myself  
Waiting to be beautiful again  
Waiting for my child to go to school  
Waiting for life to begin again                      Waiting . . .

Waiting for my children to come home from school

Waiting for them to grow up, to leave home  
Waiting to be myself  
Waiting for excitement  
Waiting for him to tell me something interesting, to ask me how I feel  
Waiting for him to stop being crabby, reach for my hand, kiss me good morning  
Waiting for fulfillment  
Waiting for the children to marry  
Waiting for something to happen           Waiting . . .  
Waiting to lose weight  
Waiting for the first gray hair  
Waiting for menopause  
Waiting to grow wise  
Waiting . . .  
Waiting for my body to break down, to get ugly  
Waiting for my flesh to sag  
Waiting for my breasts to shrivel up  
Waiting for a visit from my children, for letters  
Waiting for my friends to die  
Waiting for my husband to die           Waiting . . .  
Waiting to get sick  
Waiting for things to get better  
Waiting for winter to end  
Waiting for the mirror to tell me that I'm old  
Waiting for a good bowel movement  
Waiting for the pain to go away  
Waiting for the struggle to end  
Waiting for release  
Waiting for morning  
Waiting for the end of the day  
Waiting for sleep           Waiting . . .

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