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Globes

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Globes *by Mags Webster*

They made them to last,
those old models of Earth,
angled to show how
the world meets the sun,
coded to show how we dealt
out the spoils, cleaving land
into patchworks of pink

one sits in my home like
a final reminder: these are
the currents in which
we can't swim, these
are the bearings we know
we are losing, the copyright
due to expire

with one lazy thrust we made
this sphere turn, we surfed
across oceans without feeling
water, trod on an island
without breaking sweat.
This is the way that we've
always been travelling,

using the curve
of the world to protect us,
eating up miles and sucking
the air, chewing the rinds
off the dwindling coastlines,
skimming what's left
until there is nothing

it's not long before Earth
starts turning on us, breaks free
of her gimballed tilt and dares us
to cobble a future without her.
Then we'll patch a cambered space
with rescue schemes and treaties,
leave it to spin in an empty room.

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Mags Webster is based in Western Australia. She currently works as a freelance writer and editor, and is preparing to return to university. Some of her poems and short stories have met with success in competitions in Australia and the UK.