



Periwinkle -Alice Kinsella

Alice Kinsella is from the west of Ireland. Her works have been published and translated around the world. This poem is from her first poetry pamphlet, *Flower Press* (2018). *Periwinkle* focuses on the early stages of life, the innocence of childhood, the naivety of youth and the strong bond between parent and child, with beautiful imagery and visual language speckled throughout.

Your fingers unveiled the shell,
like the unwrapping of a present.
Little swirls on the bright jewel found
amongst greys, greens, muddied sand.

Words whistling through tooth gaps,
excitement brought by being somewhere new.
Finding me still at home, unchanged,
ready to believe any adventure.

Curled sunshine shell like the buttercup
reflection on your chin,
shimmering summer sea surface,
as we held our fingers too close
to each other's faces for the first time.

The swirl of it, poised to spring,
and unravel into something new,
something other than the little yellow
shell, carried home from your holidays,
to share a little of the sunlight with me.