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## The Granddaughter Sings Lily Home (1994)

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## **The Granddaughter Sings Lily Home (1994)**

*This crossing's hard.* Melinda stroked the hair from Lily's brow, still thick and streaked with black and white, the strangest gold between. She stroked the hair and smiled when Lily creased her eyes, and thumbed the tear that leaked down whiteskin folds. She said:

*I'll read a psalm, and sang a song of eyes and hills and help that came from God. The last aunt died ten days before -- don't tell her, it'll kill her -- but Melinda knew that death lies not in knowing but in lying. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills.* When Lily'd brushed her hair its colours told her tale: black hair for youth, white for truth, and gold to honour her father. *From whence cometh my help.* A new tear tracked the first. Melinda's voice split, cracked. *The Jordan River's deep and wide.* What did Lily fear? *I'll meet my children on the other side. This crossing's hard.*