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Homecoming

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Homecoming

Cover Page Footnote

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Homecoming

On the late afternoon train
He waited to see his mother again.
Three years at war can change a man
But cannot make him stop missing his mother.

Her letters were frequent but dull like home.
He did not care because they smelled
Like her perfume and the apple pie
She made but could not send.

In the past month she had not written
Or he had not received.
But he knew she'd be waiting.
There was no one else for her to care for anymore.

As he stepped off the afternoon train
He did not find his mother waiting,
Just the old neighbor who
Told him why his mother could not come.

The soldier's mother had died.

--Monica Hopkins