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## Kaleidoscope Child

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## **Cover Page Footnote**

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## JULIE WAGNER

### KALEIDOSCOPE CHILD

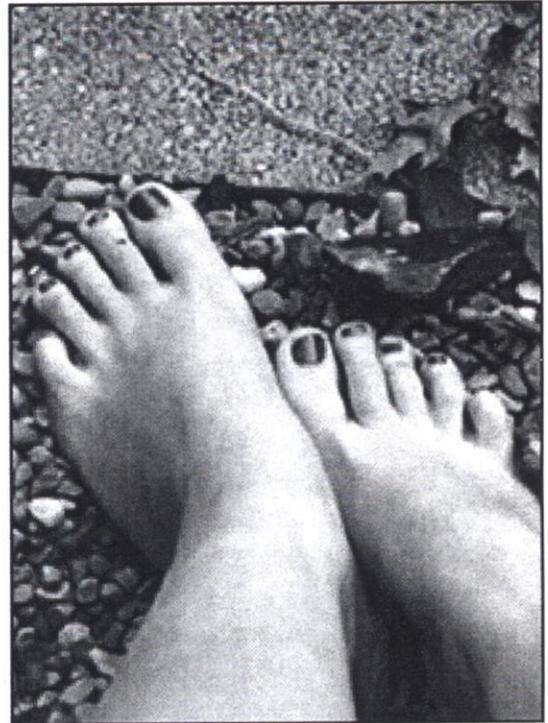
Someone once asked me  
what I thought  
would be the best gift  
to receive  
and I said  
*a kaleidoscope.*

A child *is*  
like a kaleidoscope,  
the way the pieces cartwheel  
and tumble over, always showing  
something new. We've seen it before-  
just not the silly way  
he flops the orange; or with the character  
she twists the black. Continually surprised  
we are, though it's the same thing  
only a little bit different this time.

A child *is*  
like a kaleidoscope,  
with small chips of color  
splashing through the last life and into  
this one. The bits of purple that are me,  
and the slices of green that are you.  
All coming together finding new  
resting places that are the person  
in constant flux: floating, melting.

A child *is*  
like a kaleidoscope.  
One minute happy in bright yellow  
and the next midnight blue  
with that bottom lip hanging down  
like Florida. One moment flush red from play  
and the next a sleepy white that drifts  
like Nevada clouds in sweet dreams.  
In whatever way the light trickles in  
A child *is*

every color.



ALEXIS SPECK