Where She Always Was

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UNDERNEATH

Then I would spring from the pool’s dark end,
kick as he showed me, and lock
my arms around his goosefleshy middle.
I touched it by accident: his nipple
pebbly under my stuttering thumb; I knew
what it was yet I rolled it between
the wrinkles even a young girl gets on her fingers
from playing too long in the water; and yes I knew
the twinge that dove from his chest
to the droop in his swim trunks
then rose, the head of a child who finally could
tread, up squinting and straining
like me, for air.