



Toward the light

In a series of pictures and verse from her latest book, Japanese photographer *Rinko Kawauchi* uses the transformational experience of raising a child as a filter to explore nature, family and the intimacy of everyday moments



*the signs came four days before I was due
shockwaves from within, my entire being tolled, like I was a bell*

*time went on – I was swallowed by stubborn waves, like a boat on stormy seas
I made contact on the second morning,
my body like a conduit, made for connection*

*as light shined through the austere LDR room, the threshold opened
she emerged from within me,
with all the things I had been carrying for so long*



*once I hated summer
the light was too bright for me*

*but out of nowhere came to love it,
I turned toward life*

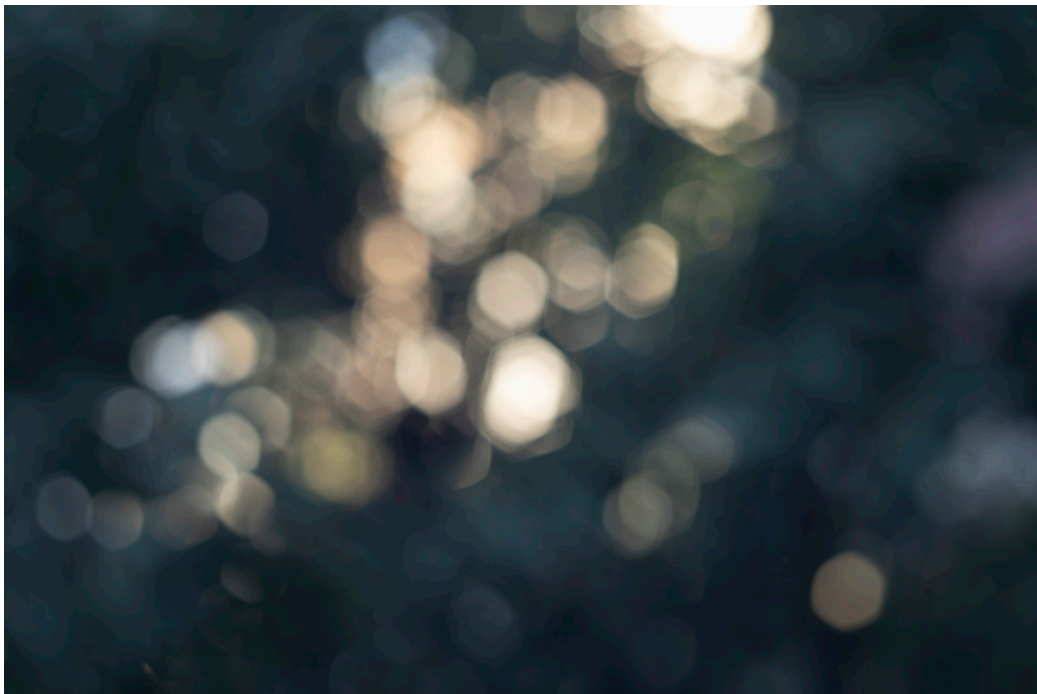
she was born at the start of summer

*I was taken aback by this blank mass of possibility
all the different colors she'll come to know*

*I know it's too soon to dread the day she'll go on her own,
but the day will come before too long*

one early afternoon, at the height of summer

I found a jewel beetle in the backyard



*teaching me to notice creatures that I might have overlooked
encouraging me to take a picture*

*and lighting the road ahead
so that I keep from the dark path
toward the light,*

beckoned by the little one carrying the lantern

“As it is”, by
Rinko Kawauchi,
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