

it was on a mission to be free  
she was willing it  
but it was up against a barrier  
she had a muscle clenching its head  
it was half in half out  
she was stretched beyond infinity  
stuck  
it must not be pressured  
she must override her urges to push  
the pain was uncontrollable  
then something its dad said made her laugh  
just relax  
the ease at which her birth partner  
could command the obvious  
caused her to laugh so hard  
she let go of the muscle  
the nurse slipped it free  
so she took her biggest breath  
its head flew out with a push  
she gave one more for its shoulder  
after a cry  
it was given onto her naked body  
she held her delicate naked baby

skin to skin  
who she knew so well  
its eyes looked to her eyes  
after a few minutes she spoke  
she is so beautiful!  
to which the nurses replied  
in unison  
sorry, didn't we say?  
It's a boy!

Jo Beth Gray