

A painting of a baby in a yellow shirt crawling on a blue surface against a warm, textured background. The baby has a surprised expression with wide eyes and an open mouth. The background is a mix of red, orange, and yellow tones with a grid-like pattern of small squares. The baby is wearing a bright yellow short-sleeved shirt with a small button at the collar. The baby is crawling on a blue surface, possibly a mat or blanket. The overall style is expressive and painterly.

Love Song  
for a  
Baby

By Marion Dane Bauer    Illustrated by Dan Andreasen

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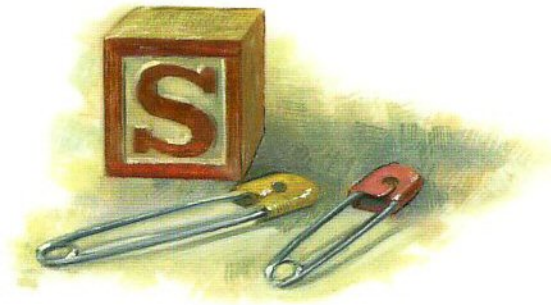
By Marion Dane Bauer  
*Illustrated by* Dan Andreasen

*For Bailey Dane Bataille, from Nonny - M. D. B.*



*To my children - D. A.*

Come, my darling.  
Come, my dear.  
Come hear a song about a baby,  
a very special baby.  
Come hear a song about you.





Before the first stars blazed in your sky,  
before the sun ever kissed you,  
before you cried your first cry,  
we loved you.





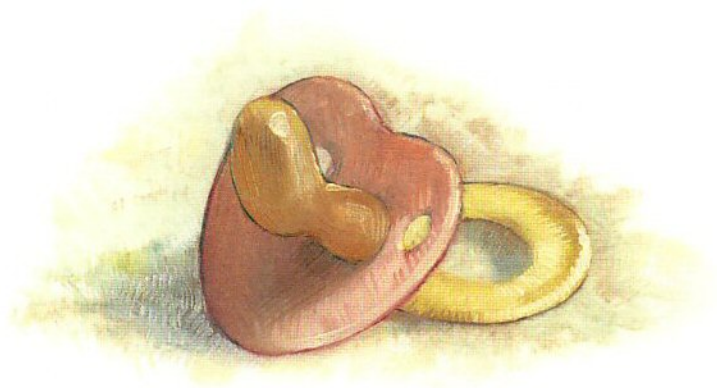


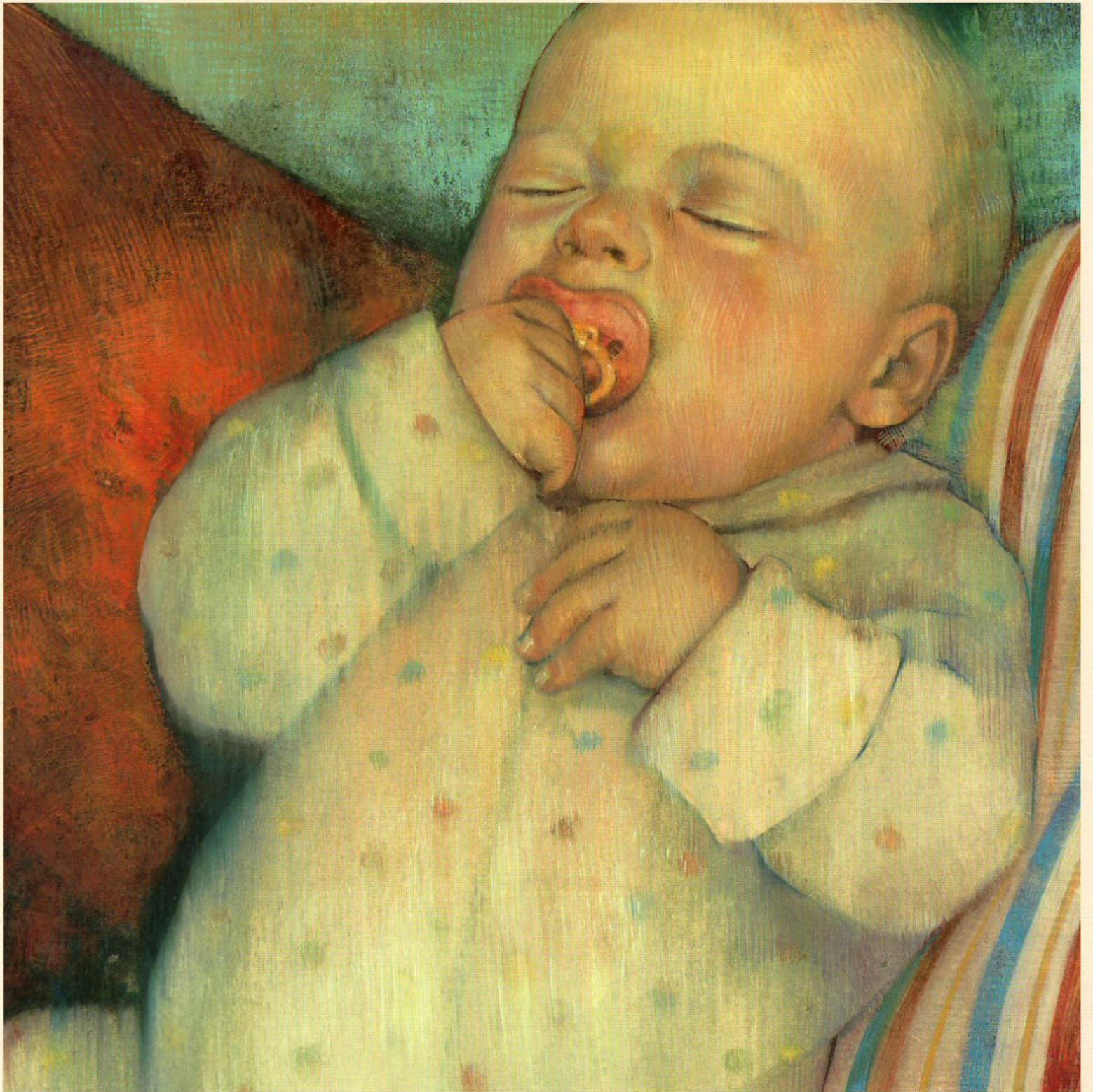


When you came into our arms,  
slippery as salmon,  
puckered as prunes,  
loud as a lion,  
already we knew,  
we loved you.



You had tiny hands  
with perfect nails  
and fingers like the petals of a flower.  
And yes,  
we loved you.





You came complete  
with ten little toes  
as sweet and pink as candies.  
Certainly,  
we loved you.





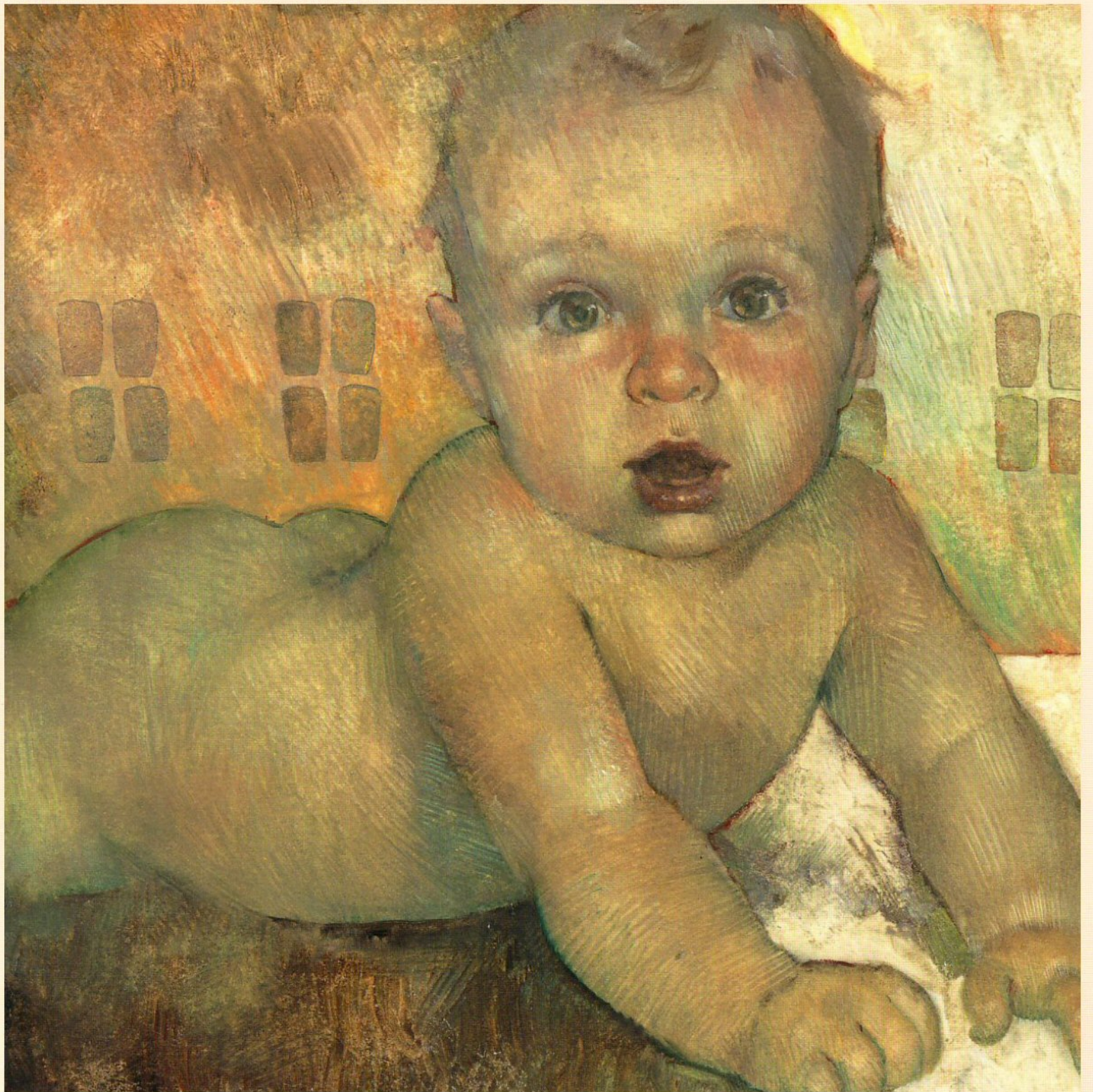




You had two eyes  
and one very small nose,  
not much hair,  
and no teeth at all.

Still,  
we loved you.

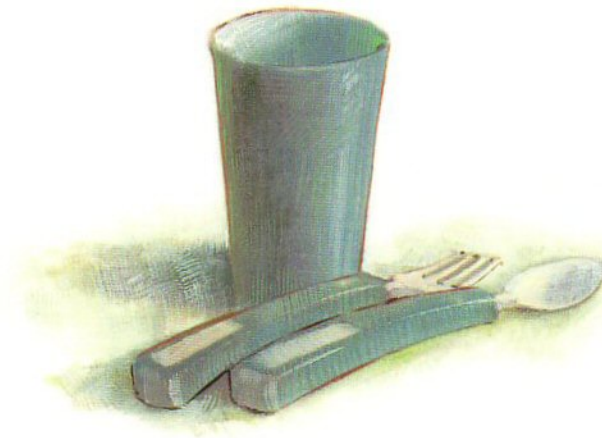




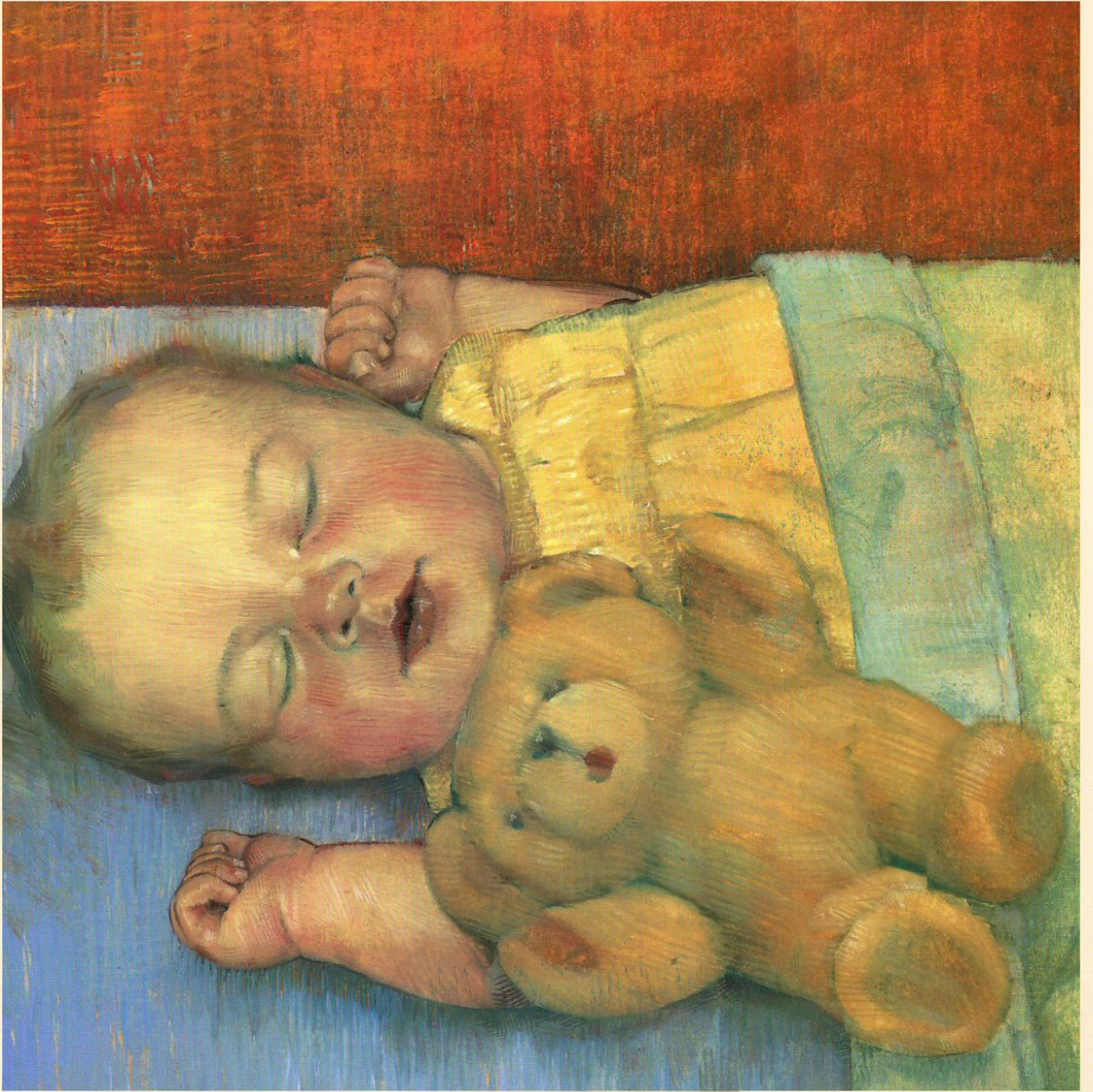
Round cheeks,  
a round tummy,  
a round little bottom,  
all made us  
love you.



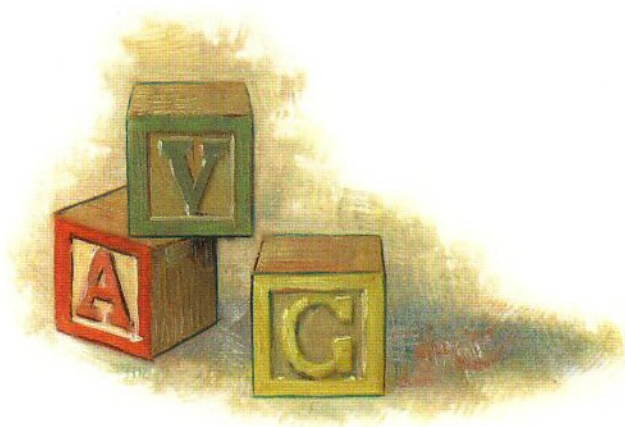
Your laughter was the sun.  
Your smile, the moon.  
Even your burps were bells,  
since  
we loved you.







So we snuggled you,  
we juggled you,  
we watched you while you slept,  
because it's true,  
we loved you.



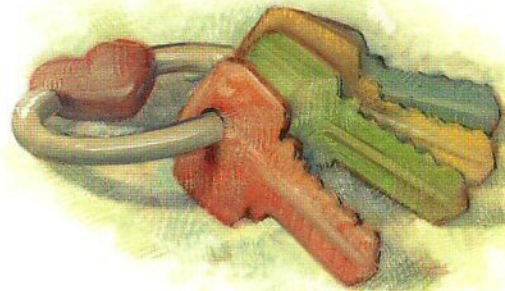
We clapped with you,  
we danced with you,  
we dried your tears  
and soothed your fears.







We tossed you high,  
we kept you dry.  
Can you guess why?  
We loved you.





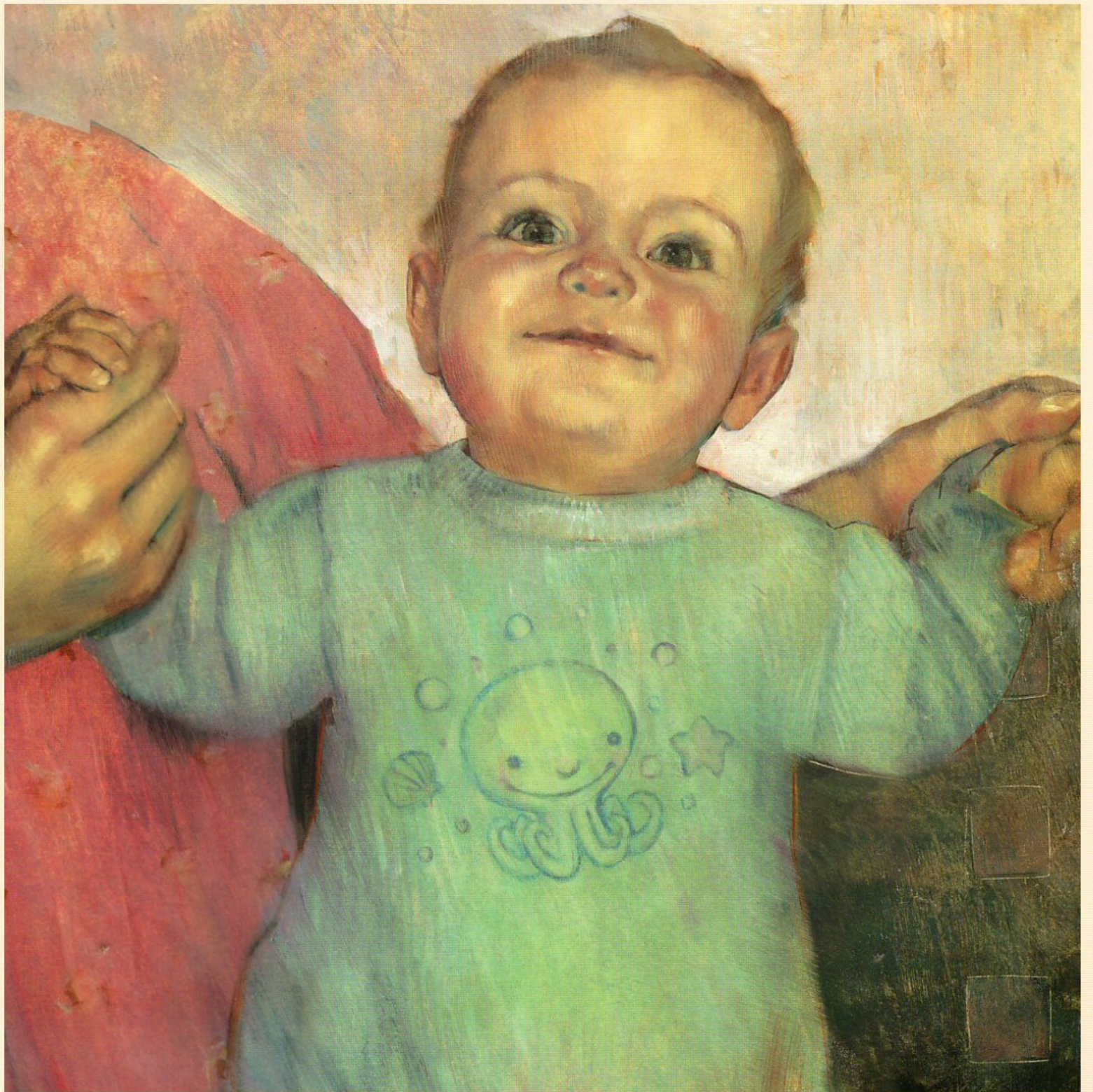


You burst upon our world like a comet,  
like birdsong  
in the silver silence of dawn,  
and how could we help  
but love you?



We'd dreamed a baby,  
we'd wanted a baby,  
we'd planned for a baby,  
we'd waited and waited and waited  
for a baby,  
until finally,  
there was you.









And oh,  
how we love you!

