## **Spices**

All those spices sitting in a row. Memories of long ago -- when the kids were there when I cooked and baked and was famous for my cakes.

Days long gone by yet still so alive in parts of me no one hardly ever sees.

Dear Kids, the hardest thing I ever had to do was say goodbye to you not just once but many times.

As you grew from size one to nine and without me were able to live so fine I knew you were no longer mine.

The baby in the blanket who I cuddled five times a night became the toddler who loved to fight and say "No, I don't want to go!"

The school girl of ten would suddenly vanish and in her stead was a teen whose dream was to get away from me so she could be all she was meant to be.

Then one of the girls I carried decided to marry.
What a joyful day!
Yet even that
Was another step away.

Aphrodite Matsakis