

anxious waiting

until

sprang open,

her eyes al-

demanded  
opening and closing urgently, in her  
a look of both adoration and quivering anxiety.

," Laila would say, releasing her  
at a scene! Calm down. Khala  
there she is, your aunt. See? Go

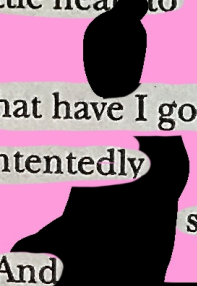
As soon as she was in Mariam's arms, Raiza's thumb shot into  
her mouth and she buried her face in Mariam's neck.

Mariam bounced happily, a half-bewildered, half-grateful  
smile on her lips. Mariam had never before been wanted like  
this. Love had never been declared to her so guilelessly, so un-  
reservedly.

"Why  
me: you pinned your little heart to



What have I got to give you.



But she contentedly

she swooned.

Her heart took flight. And

she had found  
the first true connection in her life