

Jaden Farris

## We Had The Power To Choose

I'LL BE HONEST WITH you I was really shocked.  
There you were lying, as if you just fell asleep.

Lifeless.

I looked at you  
and I thought,

I thought we had made a mistake  
But no, you were no longer there.

Here. And

In the two weeks since you died  
I still call out to you, come home.

I spend sleepless nights lying on our bed  
Alone wondering about death and dreams.

I am  
tired

Life is

exhausting  
without you

The towels  
are still  
under your  
pillow.

I smell  
them  
and  
wince, I  
imagine  
you  
are  
still  
here.

No area  
of our lives  
are unaffected  
by  
your  
death.

I still remember when I saw you lying there  
on the floor  
dead

and then in the morgue,

I remembered thinking  
that you would be cold

and that I should take you  
some warm clothes and a blanket.

When your remains were ready, they called up to schedule an appointment  
for collection. I took a bus to the crematorium to retrieve your ashes,  
and planned to walk home because the whole bus was very busy and I know  
how you were about crowds. When I got there, I was really surprised by how dull,  
white and corporate the whole place was. Not that I was expecting a church  
or anything, but I had hoped for more wood, or a plant, or a flower.

The desk attendant checked her computer for your record  
Silently got up, making sure to not make eye contact and  
She opened the white linoleum desk drawer  
And pulled you out.

The ashes were placed  
Inside a pine box, which was placed inside  
A neatly folded and stapled white paper bag.

I placed the bundle into my backpack and walked home.

When I can manage to gaze  
upon our many now disused  
cigarette trays and empty home

I cry  
for all  
of our  
yesterdays

Oddly enough, I kept your bagged lunch I prepared that day.

I froze it  
it is still in the freezer,

waiting

for something  
for someone

for something  
that even I am not sure of

to happen  
to forget

waiting  
to undo the horror

the precariousness  
of life, almost instantly

death  
caused