

COBIS Poetry Competition 2022

Looking Ahead

Key Stage 4-5 Winner

For three months
We left the room untouched.
The unmade bed
The unwashed coffee mug
The plate with cobwebs and crumbs
From a half eaten sandwich

A then-fresh set of clothes
Left hanging on the chair
The slippers by the couch
The old, broken radio- its battery dead-
Sits there on the windowsill
Collecting dust.

This morning
They took the bed away
Washed the coffee mug
Threw the sandwich out.
Strangers' footsteps in a peaceful room
disturbing that quiet carpet of dust.

I wear your watch,
And your slippers,
-both too big-
I cling to those un-worn clothes
Like a child would
to a teddy bear.

Are you watching me fix the radio?
Watching as I try
To tune time back to
that long-gone frequency:
my life with with you
fading into the sharp static
Of the past.

'He's in your heart'
They say
'He wouldn't want to see you cry'
They plug up my grief
With tissues and halfhearted condolences
And now where do I go from here?

Abayaa Afful
The British School Kathmandu

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