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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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