

Farewell

Denise Coyle

I stood alone
The kitchen so quiet
The only sound was one of rushing water
I turned off the faucet
And waited for the sound of draining water to fade
My mind lost in the memories
Our last night out
I had ordered a cherry coke
First time in forty years
The water stops
Reality returns
I walk as a zombie
Back to our room
Memories of us exist everywhere
Catching a glimpse of black cloth
Peeking from my open closet
I begin throwing out everything in the closet that is black
I don't want to grieve anymore
Escape the madness
Air-autumn-life
Stepping outside
To be greeted by the crisp autumn air
A lonely leaf requires rescue
Slowly sailing to its demise
My hand interferes
Returning the leaf to its rightful owner
Taping it back on the tree
Returning to my haven
Fresh air soothes me no more

I stand in the doorway
We'd kissed here so many nights
We'd listen to the wind blow through the screen door
At this same door
The day you died
I told a caring child there was nothing wrong
And choked upon my memories
That's when the endless days began
That's when caring was no longer an option
I went for long walks
I stepped in puddles with shoes on
Deliberately
Just to break its serenity
I would drive for hours
Then stop the car for no reason
I'd sit there
And suddenly I'd cry
Then there where the days I would not leave my haven
Read the newspaper from cover to cover
Including ads
The worst days came
I'd pick up the phone
But forgot why
Then remembered
I'd wanted to call you
I always called you each day at work
I can still dial your number
It only reminds me
You're not there