2018

Is a 7-Year-Old Too Young for a Funeral?

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Recommended Citation
Westrick, Mikaela (2018) "Is a 7-Year-Old Too Young for a Funeral?," Fishladder: A Student Journal of Art and Writing: Vol. 16 : Iss. 1 , Article 4.
Available at: https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/fishladder/vol16/iss1/4

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IS A
7-YEAR-OLD
TOO YOUNG
FOR A
FUNERAL?

MIKAELA
WESTRICK
You shoved your cancer soaked brillo pad down my throat
sewed my lips shut with the string of promises you drag around
and dear god
if I dare utter groans of pain from the scratches
let the blood pool bubble over like a geyser dribble down my chin
I’d have to wipe it up with the corner of a white napkin pretend the table isn’t broken
patiently wait for family dinner

But Mom was sick
they tied a blue balloon to her wrist and she was floating away
I tried to jump reach extend these damn gangly arms and pull her back down
my feet were strapped to tear stained bricked lead

We are all predisposed to lead feet a genetic vulnerability to the unpleasant
some heavier than others but ultimately we are all fucked

I carved the words in repair onto my eyelids ate away at the lead
and set the table