

KATE ROGERS

my drive home

As he drives me homeward
i watch the lights
reflect off the window of the car.
i play games with myself
holding my breath between phone poles
like i did as a child
to bide the time.
The silence isn't comfortable
i should care
but i don't
it's so familiar it's encouraging.
Sometimes we listen to music
never from the radio
but i always seem to know the words
and i assume that they make sense.

He drives the wheel angrily
the road is his relief
and he charges.
i know that under the bridge
i'm almost home
and for that brief moment of blackness
i always feel as if
i'm not there.
That was someone else's daughter
i tell myself
but the eyes that open are mine.

Once he missed the turn off
and he drove the car right through me
as if it were my fault
years of driving
and he doesn't know my road.
Three veins on his left hand
pulsate with the shifting gear stick
and his skin looks
especially old and tired there.
The third left
and i'm almost home
and i contemplate what
i could say.
i can't remember what
i haven't told him
and i can't recall what
i'd planned to forget.

Like a robot
i reach up and kiss his face
this part i always remember
and never fail to forget.
i wonder if my lips are
sticky or hard and cold
or if they smell from my cigarette
and i hope not.
i say thank you
although i marvel at my appreciation
and sometimes he smiles
other times i'm not persuaded
because his face
is covered in shadows.

The slam of the door
makes me feel dramatic
as if i were a movie, a tragedy
and saying goodbye
but i'm not
and the air feels particularly soothing
for it seems i'm short of breath.
Tears finally fill my eyes
they'd been waiting patiently
i come with no resolutions
and at a loss for words
but i decide to love myself anyway
laying down
I pray for rest.

Kate Rogers just graduated from high school this year, and is planning a trip out to the University of Victoria, hoping to get a mixed degree in photography and politics. Poetry is a new endeavour which she hopes to explore in the future.