

The Art of Forgetting

Jade Qiu | Poetry

1.

Here is a picture:

Astronomical light

Lingering touches, too hesitant

Gentleness that tastes of blood and steel

2.

You're not too sure who spoke first

But echoes reverberate en scene

Bodies frozen in a tableau

Of smiling faces with twinkles in their eyes

And you turn, hoping no one sees the storm in yours

"What" "It was just a joke" "You do remember jokes"

You don't but learn quickly: cruelty is not the absence of laughter

3.

Sunlight pours across the room

Creeps into bed, plummeting like fists into your skin

And you are transposed, forgetful, somewhere else

With a sun that does not feel like a sun

But the burning cottage of a nameless hill

Where you are the smoke and fire and watcher all at once

Gasoline and exhaustion pooling in the back of your mouth

4.

There is a bench in a house with the light of your life

And when he speaks he points

To the illuminated center of your heart

Words strung like constellations, aflame like moths

'I' and 'love' and 'am, was, always will be'

And in that moment you wished you remembered

Wished it didn't feel like non-sequiturs,

Idiosyncrasies violently thrust together