

COBIS Poetry Competition 2023/24

A Future to Be Proud Of

Key Stage 4-5 Runner-up

an elegy to pain

i once wished for the dark to swallow me whole,
to wrap its velvety shroud around my weary soul
in a coffin at fifteen;
and carry me away to a realm where
the weight of existence
would be but a distant memory.

in the quiet desire for obsolescence,
i yearned to dissolve into the abyss,
to be an ink drop lost in the midnight's manuscript.
it was a desire born of exhaustion,
of a heart heavy with the burdens of the day,
a longing as fragile
as a gossamer-winged moth –
drawn to the allure of melancholia's flame.

but the vessel refused to die
so i took a hammer
to the labyrinthine chambers of my own heart,
where the echoes of yesterday and tomorrow
converged in a symphony
of cosmic introspection.

a solitary, radiant thread of hope gleamed.
i was reborn
as a constellation of purpose,
my path etched across the tapestry of existence
like ethereal brushstrokes
all leading towards
a future that could only be described
as truly beautiful—
a future to be ever-so proud of
because i made it.

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