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Uplifting Blackness: A Showcase of Art by
Western's Black Student Community

2022

Former Mother

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Grief is a mother

She teaches everything we know about what to do with death,
Who should and should not cry at funerals,
When to set the doves free and when to
Cage them.

Grief is a mother

She is not the aftermath of the long suffering
But she has birthed it into the shape of a child who cries all night
That bites the nipple which feeds it
That will grow into a man steeped in tradition
Taller than most things,
Faster than the rest of us,
Teeth too familiar with tear.

Grief is my mother

And I try not think about what that makes me
As I watch another car go over the long-dead body of someone's pet.
All good things come before the eulogy. The mangled animal will
Be remembered smiling,

But its owner is owner no longer.

And my grief would be a former mother
And suddenly the final asphalt end of a busy highway is rhyming with
Freedom.

Former mother