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

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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