```
"powerless"
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deep

breath

she breathes and you lay your head upon her chest to find her heart beat beat

beating

you look up just in time to see the life draining from her eyes but you still hear the rhythm of her heart pounding under each bruise they left upon her skin

all you can do is watch

and wait
in here
she is safe (loved)
the rumble of the engine overshadows
dangers waiting for her

these four wheels are only a haven warmed by the smoldering anger inside you and her body gently withered in your arms

there's a stench in the air so devastatingly palpable it burns your throat and every nerve as it travels through your body you begin to wonder if it's your heart that's stopped

frost like opaque glass covers the windows and her hand burns memories in yours yet you can do nothing to stop the hands of another from smothering her smile

still the fire rages inside of you like it's been doused in gasoline leaving a bitter taste in your mouth and you feel

bottomless

the depth of your thoughts has no limits because you demand retribution

demands fall empty on a soulless mind whose words have brutally destroyed the person she could have been yet they still aren't satisfied oh

how they hunger for utter annihilation no semblance of hope

you wish the fire inside of you would burn so

far and wide that it would obliterate them where they stand and as your feet brush through the ashes then she would be able to

Rise.

"We Build These Walls"

You and me,
We live in a fortress
made of our white.
From top to bottom it shines
and gleams and burns
with the naturalness of white.

There is no such person, place, thing, or idea that can tear down our majesty. Its strength is unprecedented, nay, unchallenged by any other with our ramparts of white.

We build these walls to hinder the dangers of the earth from despoiling our perfection. Walls that stretch into the sky and our roof is the heavens filtered with the omens of white.

One Nation, Under God our fortress stands on the backs of

those

who

aren't

blessed

with this casing of white.

But, if we build these walls tall enough

wide enough

deep enough.

We will not have to perceive figure.

"For Her"

For her,
I have to be.
I have no choice but to be.
If I wasn't,
our world would fall apart.

For her,
No longer can I.
I can't run, I can't.
If I did,
our world would fall apart.

For her, I am never. Or I pretend that I am not. If I was, our world would fall apart.

For her, I am strong.

For her, I do not hide.

For her, I won't be afraid.

If not for her, my world would fall apart.

"The Alarm"

Reads 8:30 a.m. I roll back over And pull the covers closer to my face. Desperate to conserve warmth, Desperate to stay within the peace of sleep.

The alarm goes off each time a customer Steps, waddles, stomps Through the automatic doors, which Whoosh open and close all day long.

The alarm on my phone rings, Signaling the end of my break. I ignore it for a minute or two before Walking on tired legs back to my register.

An alarm on the television fills the room, Startling me from the crooked neck nap In the large green recliner, my chair, Tucked in the corner of the room.

The alarms in my head burst like sirens, As I read her text, one, two, three times, Nothing has happened, yet my heart races Like it's ready to take action.

No alarms to end my night as I climb Into bed, knowing tomorrow will be the same. The same routine, the same people, The same worries, the same alarms.