"Sandpaper Walls"

Sandpaper walls with protected lights

Distort my hands and arms

Show lines and patterns

Of cuts and bruises

From years of evaded memories

Fragmented shadows loom above my body

And turns the icy walls into repeated s t r i p e s

Fairy lights draped above my head

Decorate my bed

Shield ||| from my mother's eyes

What goes on in my head

Her heavy footsteps

Filled with stress

Make the textures walls shake

I can hear the pain and the unsaid words in her sighs

And I try to sleep

to think

to eat

But I do nothing but fall short

Rain falls from gutters and splatters loosely against my window

Making the first rays of light reflect and fracture my di s to rte d lines

BURSTING bubbles of numb

Why do my heavy eyes and heavier brain make me think that I'm not on earth?

Why do I feel I'm in a world apart

until the sun comes up to awaken my body.

So I lay before my window, listening to loose rain SMACK against the chipped deck I stare at my hands in broken luminosity until the dark doesn't seem real anymore.

And sandpaper walls drift to smooth and my hands no longer show my memories.

And all I can think is

I have **nothing** to lose

"Picture Perfect Family"

The jiving American music mocking the family

The stressed shouts from the next room

The lost girl strolling down the hall

This was the picture perfect family

The promises broken

Simple things blown

They got a lot to say about nothing

And each other

Threats

Fights

The picture perfect family

Anger poking the fire of rage

There was nothing to do

That's the only thing the parents agreed

The picture perfect family

Now she's in her bedroom

Because therapy hasn't worked

How do you prove an issue

Of a girl who won't speak

Or complain

Or shout

To anybody but her friends

Who shut her down

Now she's embarrassed

And timid

And they think she's doing better

She thought she was doing better

But there's nothing she can do

She screams and shouts

Her lies drown her sorrows

"I'm fine"

That's what she lives

She pretends to be the *picture perfect daughter*

In her far from picture perfect family

Only smiling as tears stream down her face

She keeps her head in books

Wishing the words would suffocate her

Until she ceased to exist

The picture perfect family

She dreams of the day when she'll be far away

From the stressed shouts echoing from her

Picture perfect family

"Too many..."

There are too many feelings to know

Why would you want to feel pain?

Why would you want to doubt yourself.

Being human involves hating

You must learn to feel nothing

To ignore the world around you

to become ignorantly optimistic

the shadows of earth will come and go

your mind will cloud

and sadly that darkness doesn't leave as quickly as you may hope

You'll be sad

You'll see war

you'll lose yourself

But there are always those happy moments

You'll smile ear to ear

On those Summer days you'll feel no pain

Only the joy of cool water on your toes

And the laughs of your friends will fill your ears

When you grow old

and all you've known has gone

Look in the mirror

Measure your life in laugh lines around your mouth

the crows feet by your eyes from the smiles

Not the desperation in your eyes

To live forever

To remember the days

when you fell in love

when your child smiled up at you

Not the days where you fell

when you failed that one test 10 years ago

Because your math class shouldn't make you mad

All these years later

it won't matter

People come and go

but those memories last forever

And when you're taking your last breath

Look back to that day

I don't need to explain

You know exactly what I'm talking about

That one day

Not the bad one

That one day the caused those laugh lines

that one day that caused those crows feet

that one day where you felt nothing but joy.

So when you take your last breath

you'll sigh in relief

not cause your escaping the bad things

but cause your content with death

since you remembered such a full life

"History"

A pale girl

Lilac hair suffocating Her --once-- brown locks Dotted with freckles

To mark her memories

When she first moved to the bustle

The game she played with him

To learn about the system

Of interlocking fingers

Connecting you and the city

That VibRaTEs the soles of your feet

With a mundane clatter

That makes her smile

Her eyes watch

Remembering the titan,

That brakes the thick cloud

Of noise that scratches against the metal box

Her eyes trace
The others

Passengers

Tourists who screech

Languages she can't speak

Silent millennials listening to podcasts

An old woman with lipstick smudged on her teeth

Judging the children

A modest moving world

||Trapped|| in a metal coffin

Until you hear

"This is ---"

And two beeps

Which --congests-- the coffin

No

her home

With unknown smells

That waft to her nose

Leaving her unsatisfied

With unfamiliar faces

She'll miss

Faces she's learned to associate

With **him**

whom she duly misses

Because that is what she knows