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"I love you too"

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“I love you too”

He mumbled inaudibly as he rolled away from her
The right side of the bed left cold,
Prickling goosebumps on sweaty skin
Cotton sheets disguising nakedness, flushed embarrassment
She was alone,
Inside and out

“I love you too”

Her best friend giggled lovingly,
Wiping drunk tears and snot
From numb cheeks,
Swaying to music that
Wasn't even playing

“I love you too”

The last thing Grandma said,
Before the light dimmed behind her eyes.
An arrangement of skin and bones,
Laid out artfully on the hospital bed
A hollow whistle coming from empty lungs,
The sound of death

“I love you too”

She said to the mirror, but didn't believe it
With grayed blurry vision, black veiny cheeks
A scattering of scratches burned hot
On the left side of her chest,
Where it felt like she was dying

“I love you too”

-Mollie Girgen
College of Saint Benedict '18