

# UC Merced

## The Vernal Pool

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Peer reviewed|Undergraduate

bluebird  
By Angel Freeze

the only boy i ever died for  
had so much light inside of him  
that plants  
would grow in his presence.

well,  
the version of him that i knew  
anyway.  
he was perpetually sad but still,  
his wide eyes would glimmer when he smiled,  
blinding me.

i've never seen such shiny eyes.  
i wanted to protect him from the world  
and show him so much softness that he forgot  
what the pain felt like.

i wanted to kiss the hate  
out of his mouth  
and replace it  
with forgiveness,  
but he kept swallowing so much  
poison.

we drank moscato on the floor by my apartment window  
every night, staring out of the third story glass pane  
until the hot sky turned black.

after he left, i spent months carrying out our ritual  
alone,  
sitting by that window,  
drinking enough moscato for the both of us.

he spent these months reminding me  
that he still loved me  
from the other side of the country.  
beating himself up for ever boarding that plane,  
he said,

he said

these things without purpose,  
letting his words float and exist,  
never serving as an end to any means.

none of this ever meant  
that he was coming back.

(a.f.)