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So Lovely the Colors of Grey

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THIRD PLACE

SO LOVELY THE COLORS OF GREY

This poem, as its title suggests, explores the positive potential of dwelling in ambivalence. It shows us that we should embrace what is difficult—even though the easy answers may seem appealing, or might appear to offer a kind of refuge, these answers ultimately may not be the most satisfying or true. Resisting this too pat resolution, the poem shows us that we can learn to appreciate ambiguity: “white and black both lack the language to say / How lovely they are in the colors of grey.”

A. Dzirkalis

SO LOVELY THE COLORS OF GREY

Katy Lawson

There on the page it always does seem
There are ten thousand eyes but not one to see
That that which you pride when the lights are on
Is the same thing you covet when everyone’s gone.

In your black and white you’ve found some protection
From the forces that weigh on your grey imperfections
And they give you the space in which you may run
Until your heart beats still and your soul is numb.

Turning back the clocks which govern both time and space
You segregate purity from sins until you’ve no face
Your indeterminate shades will soon be no more
As you push all your shadows to the tar colored shore.

Indeed you’re no prisoner for this is clearly your choice
To sit on your page and pretend there’s no noise
But neither are you free from that which you’ve fled
For the presence of beauty is now haunting your head.

So you desperately search for ways to simplify life
And you’ll bleed all your colors until you’re just white
And you’ll stand in these shadows where you may keep guard
Over all the dark suffering which made your life hard.

But soon you will find that these colors you drained
Were not only your challenges, heartaches, and pains
For these are the events that have made your life tough
But are also the mothers of joy, peace, wisdom and love.

Be brave dear soul and embrace this imperfect life
For living in contrast is no way to thrive
And white and black both lack the language to say
How lovely they are in the colors of grey.