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Sifting

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Sifting

Lauren Burgess

Ryan Chighizola Prize Winner

Missing you is problematic
because we're on the couch.
The room smells warm
like someone's been sleeping.
Dust plays lazy
in the sunbeams.

You sleep like a corpse
on the road, flailed.
And look handsome
without your glasses.

I never want a song
with lyrics, I say. I want
to please you but
the twelve string's
on your lap.

A breath shivers
down the chimney,
and I stop reading.
In my head,

You
spread out

like scent.

Please, I say. Let this hang
with our jackets, bear.
Don't leave us just yet.

Vibrations in the kitchen
remind you of the orchids,
wilted there.

I think about getting to the store for apples
before it fogs.
You look off.