Sidewalks, Speed

Ellie Lindner
University of New Orleans

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uno.edu/ellipsis

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://scholarworks.uno.edu/ellipsis/vol44/iss1/17

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of English and Foreign Languages at ScholarWorks@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ellipsis by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UNO. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uno.edu.
Sidewalks
Ellie Lindner

When the earth laughs, it cracks
and inside you slip
into a cave
    into an echo
    into words
    into thoughts.

At the bottom, you see a sign:
   CAUTION
   Watch your step.
And the laughing starts again.
You know we still see a star’s light after it’s died. Now think if you saw that star alive. Think it cozied next to you on nights too cold to sleep and told you bedtime stories that brightened your eyes. It lit your house like a beacon, so no one would ever be lost.

Now, see it set off the smoke alarm. See it run out the door, raise its fist to the sky, begging to supernova. Collapsing to the ground, it scrapes its knees and elbows, scabbing to hide its shimmer. And shoots.

You stutter as you try to explain it’s not that bad. See yourself twitch to relax. You’re alone. Someplace home, with only a shattered light bulb flickering on the floor. You chokingly laugh, it can’t be that dark if there’s still light. Families can still love if there’s still a family. Right?