

bones age with each breath

by Victor Clevenger

i wish i had an answer
wish i didn't have demons
didn't always feel like failing
i wish i didn't have a situation
was 22 again
i wish i was smarter
had gone to college
i wish i was living life
not letting life live me
i wish i had your heartbeat memorized
like a song by the national
wish i didn't feel everything closing
in on me didn't always cry when i hurt
i wish that i could pick lilies for you
year round
walk to the kitchen right now
make you cinnamon rolls
i wish i was the earth to you
lick your armpits until you laugh
i wish i wasn't losing you to someone
that will never love you i love you
i wish that my heart was actually an object
i could remove from my body
i would rip it out & give it to you without hesitation
as you sip your hot cup of vanilla biscotti
i light a cigarette

hazing the room like fog lifting over a cemetery
we've both seen
in a dream
but refuse to acknowledge