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He Was Shot and Killed

Alycia Gregory
St. John Fisher College

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Cover Page Footnote

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He Was Shot and Killed

At night
when you begin to lay down
and the ghosts start to come
Do you run?
Can you hide?
I cannot

The sound of bullets
I never heard
ring through my ears

His blood
that I never touched
begins to dry between my fingers

The screams
I never choked on
don't get stuck in my throat anymore

The sirens
that were never turned on
echo through my skull

The kind of death
that I have never had to swallow
leaves my mouth tasting bitter every morning

And with that taste
I read the headlines
young random violence innocent civilian big family mourning grieving
innocent

When you sleep at night and the ghosts
start to form
Can you still find some peace in darkness?
I cannot

Alycia Gregory