

Poetry – James Summer

Welcome to Poetry, today we are pleased to offer a poem titled ‘Youth Dissociation’, by James Summer, the 2021 Youth Poet Laureate for the City of Victoria.

You feel so tense in my hands
As if you could so easily fall apart
Dissociate from body
Dissociate from conversation.

I met you through silence
Horizon blanketed with a sweetened flavor
Eyelids heavy, attracting sleep
But I've recognized you reject the thought of going home.

Your cheeks are littered with freckles
And I drown in counting them all
Whispers painted on skin
Soft-spoken poetry, written among a blush.

Like as if you were sibling
I tell you that life might cause you heartache
So be childlike while you can
Remember to love friends, and in return, be loved.

Where we lay uncomfortably on concrete stairs
And rain starts to smell like childhood
We tremble ourselves into opening up
Hidden secrets, become an understanding of knowledge.

In a few months, silence becomes gutted laughter
As well as deep frightened cries
You can weep here for as long as you need
Dissociate from situation.
This is spring, the radical beginning
Sun starts to wait outside a little longer
Soak it all in, as much as possible
You don't know, but you radiate potential.

Do you even remember last year anymore?
Only the part where I held scenarios to my bones
And where did that lead?
Not to this nostalgic March.

I won't be around when June comes
But I'll pass you on through fingertips

Onto souls that you're used to
You feel so tense in my hands, time to let go.

You speak your last conversation
It is a reflection of how far you've come
I'll listen until the sun goes down
And forevermore.

I truly hope.

Forevermore.