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Poem At Twenty-One

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POEM AT TWENTY-ONE

ELIZABETH MAYS

i want to
 learn how to be
 a person
 who moves around
 a crowded room
 with ease.
 i breathe in the shower
 only i wonder
 about blue lines
 under my eyes.
 i discover that
 a level photo
 frame does not
 satisfy.
 i wish you could
 see me when
 i have a thought
 all to myself.
 do i still want
 to be just
 like everyone?
 last year, i wanted
 to be everyone.
 i want you to
 know that i
 wasn't always
 so harsh.

should i shape things
 in a way
 so they don't
 make me cry?
 i wonder how slow
 cracks sneak in like that.
 i lean against
 the dresser and look
 at cracks in the ceiling.
 i usually should
 still be worried.
 sometimes my heels
 split open and i can't
 run but i didn't run
 anyways and it
 is early.