

Six Step Walk

In an alternate universe
you die when no one can remember you,
not even yourself.

First,
piecing together the different parts
of your face
gets difficult, longer, slower.

Second,
your face takes time to come into focus
and when it does
something doesn't feel right.

Third,
your face begins to soften round the edges
and people hold on to the remembrance
of holding your fingers rather than your smile.

Fourth,
you become, quickly, a bunch
of common adjectives
"she was unique, pretty and...you know what I mean".

Fifth,
you become your photographs,

then a ghost of a photograph,
then a name uttered in forgetful tones.

Sixth,
your name becomes a word
then a bunch of letters,
random alphabets and then, nothing.

— you are dead.

- Zahra Rizvi, Fourth Semester