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## A Haze

Abigail Petersen

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Scooter, Caesar, Kenneth, and Dawn  
all died when I believed they'd live forever.  
Cancer swept through our house; a  
bad dream that washed the sheets in  
unshed tears and hung them to dry on the quiet line.  
I walked through classes like a  
shadow and nobody noticed my grades slip  
or me stop talking.

Scooter, Caesar, Kenneth, and Dawn  
all died before I could properly say goodbye,  
a haunting task to someone so young  
but  
my mother taught us to comfort the dying.  
Nobody deserves to die alone.  
So we kept those two in the house.  
Watched them stop eating and  
eventually stop walking  
until the vet came and I watched their soul  
go home.

Scooter, Caesar, Kenneth, and Dawn  
all died before my teens.  
The latter two fought hard at the end,  
a circle of family guarding them  
from the reaper as the meds kicked in.  
I remember my grandfather singing in Swedish  
and asking about his parents in a dying haze.

Scooter, Caesar, Kenneth, and Dawn  
all died.

## About Abigail Petersen

Abigail Petersen is a freshman at UND studying to get a major in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology. She enjoys writing poetry, writing fantasy, and reading young adult novels. Her inspiration comes from her dogs, job, and various D&D campaigns.

