

“Rib Cage”  
By: Lauren Foster

Our hearts are monsters, so we lock them in with our rib cage  
Each bone written in stone told a story  
A story on how every promise was broken in one ceremony  
I made a promise once  
I remember her silent whisper telling me, “Don’t tell,”  
I was consistently flipping coins  
Betting on whether he were to have my head or were to believe it was all a tale  
Either way, he’ll think I’m lying  
Down the Hell Highway all the way up to the Stairs of Heaven, we went through a lot  
But her slithering hands and curious lips met mine  
She was a temp that made me tempt temptation  
He’ll either use his venom to kill me or just bite me with my unanointed wrongdoing  
Either way, he’ll think I’m lying  
So, I kept my promise to her  
For both of us  
Our affair was only known to secrets and demons

He and I met on a meadowed beach  
Skeletons of our old selves broke away and emerged jellyfish  
We were free without any obscurities  
But every minute I used out of 1,440 to kiss her is like pulling the trigger on him  
He’ll either use time to remind the first time we met or he’ll beat me with my own clock that  
stood solid as a rock  
Either way, he’ll think I’m lying  
My heart beats out of control for both of them, so I had to lock it in its cage to grow dim

The ceremony of love and vows  
She stood in the crowd ready to object  
I lunged at her with a prowl, saying, “Don’t tell”  
Yet, I lost both of them through the sounds of her gun rounds  
Now, my heart doesn’t beat with the same pound  
Our hearts are monsters  
We can’t all be jellyfish  
That’s why they call it a rib cage