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Absence

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ABSENCE

Madison Casey

Love is felt in many different ways. From the love of a mother, to the love of a brother, to the love of a lover, to the love of a friend. It's all love. Love is like water, it takes the shape of whatever container it's poured into.

I know love. I've been loved my whole life and had the privilege to love as well. But I've never felt love in this form before. Through Absence.

It's a longing that's different. When we go our own ways, we miss the people we love, but we know they aren't supposed to be where we're going, so we don't feel their holes. When you meet someone in a new place, and they leave you behind, it is only then that we recognize the Absence.

She's supposed to be here. I haven't known here without her. Everywhere I look, her shadow lurks: from the recesses of memory to the silhouettes of others. It took me a while to figure out why it hurts so much. Because where she's going, I've never been, so she doesn't expect me to be there. But where I am, she always was. So now, at meals, walking down the sidewalk, in the empty room, on the lawn, in the atmosphere, I feel her Absence.