

the one who stayed

Emilie Gerdtz

the one who stayed,
I've never asked you
how it is
to be the one.

I'm sorry you're the one
who has to live up
to their expectation.
suddenly, I am the rule
and you're the deviation.
you're the only place
where they are heard
with all the problems they have
with you and the world.

I'm sorry you're the one
who now holds
their weight on your back
when they speak.
who is the object
of their hopes
and all their critique.

I'm sorry you're now
the child
the project
the concern
the burden.

I wish I could take you with me,
but
not to let you down it's not any better here
in a lonesome town.

you're on your own
now, kid

where you walk the fine line
between a smile for the future
and a cry for the past.
where you don't know
if you're homesick
or just sick of yourself.

they're too far away now
to see my failures or hear
how messed up I am
while yours are loud and clear.
words were never your armour
like they were for me
I'm sorry that yours are
the only ones they see.

trust me when I say
they only love what I could be
they only miss what I once was.
trust me when I say
when you go someday
they will treat you just the same
like some long-lost friend
a returning soldier
coming back to the war
he tried to escape.



they only love
what I once was

I'm sorry you're the one
who endures the silence
at the dinner table.
who smiles happily
so they can feel assured
they are somewhat a family.

I've never asked you
how it feels
to be an only child.
I'm sorry you're
the only one now
I really want to help
but I don't know how.

I can only do
what I always did
play your games with you
but you're on your own, kid.

I'm sorry you're
the one who stayed,
the only child.
I'm so sorry.
I left you behind.

- *Quinn S.*