

MINERAL AREA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

2020 CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST
WINNER

Theme: The Journey

Adult Poetry

Mikayla Watkins



VIII Journeys Through Loss

I.

Sand escapes through the empty spaces between your fingers
one grain at a time until
there is nothing left but the phantom feeling of
what was just there.

II.

For months your lungs kept growing smaller but
the air felt lighter and
the force of gravity less strong.

III.

Every gentle touch transformed into permanent bruises
but it is becoming easier to stand
on your own.

IV.

That night, the wine stained more than just your dress
But all the scrubbing you've done made you cleaner
than you have been in years.

V.

You turned your insides out conspiring ways
to make the hands go backwards for once.

VI.

You eventually decided that "new" sounds a lot better than "refresh".

VII.

You discovered blank slates are not new cities with different people,
They are souls healed from previous hurt.

VIII.

Stepping away from the massacre is the
easiest part.
Accepting you are half to blame
is what takes time.