

## Poetry

**Cite this article:** Kim E (2024).  
Housekeeping. *Palliative and Supportive Care*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1478951523001967>

Received: 12 November 2023  
Accepted: 03 December 2023

Email: [elanekim@college.harvard.edu](mailto:elanekim@college.harvard.edu)

You teach me how to wear grief:  
like fabric skin-thin. Like the whitest beam of light,

intense and microscopic and so unfamiliar. In the operating  
room, there is little time to blink, less still

to remember your warmth. Somewhere inside,  
you are alive. I wonder when you started to pause

at your reflection: sharp shards of memory that glint  
in the light. The restaurant booth with chips

along its axes, the geometry of your body as it  
unfurled. The ailing body is a still one, lonely, housed

in four walls of a burning house. Somewhere inside,  
you are alive. I trace the lifelines imprinted

on your hands. I try to remember  
how they held me.