

in this city

Grace O'Brien

Editor's Choice Award Winner

are you alive?
who knows anymore.
in this city,
this city of chaos and peace,
this city of endless noise and still silence,
your bones glow like neon lights
and ashes glitter like diamonds.
in this city
a skyscraper can fall
and no-one hears a thing.
their minds are dulled by their luxury.
days can pass
without meaning
and nights seem to last a decade.
but even here
in this wondrous and horrible city
there are broken people.
they sulk silently in back rooms
and drive quiet cars.
they seldom speak

and when they do,
it is bleak but unafraid.
finding clarity in cynicism, they step out
of the darkness
but only for a moment.
oops.