

2013 MCC Creative Writing Contest

Poetry Category

First Place: “*After Life*,” by Hannah Kole

Plant flowers on my grave
So what remains of me
Is still a part of life

An Infinite garden;
Growing, breathing, surviving
When under is only decay
Of one who is not as immortal

So when I’m nothing but soil
It will feed on me
And I will be a part of life again
Top of Form
Bottom of Form

JUDGE’S COMMENTS

“*After Life*” is a meditation on contributing to the world after death. The speaker implores the reader (or an unnamed person) to “Plant flowers on my grave/So what remains of me/Is still a part of life.” The author’s use of the imperative effectively involves the reader in their request and creates a feeling of urgency. This poem conveys a sense of hope and rebirth, that new life can be born from death.

Elissa Cahn was the contest judge. She is an MFA Fiction student at Western Michigan University, where she teaches composition and serves as the nonfiction editor for Third Coast. Her work has appeared in: NANO Fiction, Midwestern Gothic, Harpur Palate, and Quarterly West. She is currently at work on a story collection.