

“The Moment You Stopped Knowing Me”

You looked at me like I was still who I used to be —
and I smiled so you wouldn't notice.

The smile that never quite reached my eyes,
It never even got close.

That smile was like the path a glacier leaves behind,
Hollowed out worn thin.

You spoke like I still answered,
Like I was able to fix this.

I kept shrinking to fit the version of me you missed,
until I couldn't hear my own voice anymore.

But I've grown quiet in places
you never learned to look.

I watched the moment pass
where you could have asked,
but instead, you told a story
about a girl I don't remember being
And a girl you still think I am.

But it wasn't about me,

A silent recognition passed between us.

You forgot who I was, who you thought I was,

and in the quiet you left me behind.

You didn't see it —

How even in my silence

I was trying to not disappoint you.

And I wondered how many versions of me

you've kept alive

because the real one

no longer fits

the space you saved

Only if you could see the beauty I see.