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Four-Letter Word

Jared Kau

Somewhere deep inside, as a matter of inconsequential fact,
I know that I am really spread out loosely upon my bed.

But in my head, I am willingly on the floor in midst of a storm,
the flood waters rising and politely invading the open cusp

of my mouth, making home in the caverns of my lungs,
lapping my eyes closed as an afterthought.

I am six feet underwater, sinking deeper
without the help of current or seaweed or tide,

gradually descending as I stare up at the soles
of her shoes while she walks on water.

I am back to reality, gazing at a ceiling instead
of storm clouds, on a bed instead of an ocean floor,

still breathing,
and yet still drowning.

You'll get that swelling feeling in your chest
when she tells you she loves you, but don't be fooled.
it's really a grenade she takes years to assemble within
you before finally pulling the pin and taking cover,

making sure to find a spot to safely watch from
as your pieces fly by like leftovers.