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## chapter town (ghost-town)

Natalie McKenty  
*College of DuPage*

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chapter town (ghost-town)

## chapter town (ghost-town)

Natalie McKenty

Come on in  
We're all good and clean  
Join the rotation  
The melting pot of middle-class pretension and petty sin  
Babes in the womb till age eighteen  
That's when you put in for your cancellation  
Because this is a chapter town  
And yet, I...

Rot, rot

I woke up today  
And I nearly put my head through a wall  
Goddamn this cemetery  
The gossips say what they say  
I suppose I was bound to fall  
Dreams, like the green of a mid-west January  
Because this is a chapter town  
And yet, I...

Rot, rot

Static as a discarded Polaroid shot  
The mere phantom of an afterthought  
Aimlessly pacing in autopilot  
I am here in the same old spot

This was supposed to be a chapter town  
Not a continuous breakdown  
"Get it together, and just move on," they say  
For my very soul they do pray  
As I lay face down  
Right in their overpriced ground  
Right after I was drowned



Jill Speelman — Photograph

## Overlook

Rot, rot

“If you hate it here, just leave!”  
 “Just keep reading”  
 “Jesus Christ, why’d you stop breathing?!”

I, I, I wish I could say  
 Map out the route to better earthly days  
 I thumb through the words, but I can’t discern a single phrase  
 The tragedy of coming of age in make-believe

Rot, rot

Please help me  
 Because I’ve come to the conclusion  
 Even if it’s a prideful delusion  
 In the copy of my edition

The last few pages of this chapter were redacted  
 And now I’m left going spastic  
 I can’t stand it  
 I’m just the apparition that lost her shit  
 The ghost of a town she can’t flee

Rot, rot

Lost as a discarded Polaroid shot  
 The mere phantom of those who forgot  
 Because this is a chapter town  
 No, it’s her ghost-town  
 And the very worst kind, at that  
 Isolation of her own self deluded creation

Oh, what a hellish plot-twist...