

# After the Poison

*by Collin Kelley*

I've measured out our time together  
sealed it in airtight bottles  
the one labeled 1998 kept close  
like smelling salts

One whiff a camphor waking me  
making me high on the idea of us  
putting blinders on your infidelities  
double vodkas and damaging words

And when that isn't enough  
I open a vein and plunge in  
mainlining good memories  
to blot out your monstrosity

I eke you out in little doses  
slipstreaming to before the bad  
when your hand resting  
on the small of my back was enough

It's the way I keep from overdosing  
the way I keep you human

