Honorable Mention
Teen Age Group

By Jayla Ortiz

i try to make things sound so pleasant
my life is far from
poise or elegance
you will either find me over the moon
or under constant self reflection
or somewhere in between grief and acceptance
where gravity is non-existent
and time has no measurement

maybe my life would be better if i was
shallow and laconic
i would be a little less empathetic
and all my love would be platonic
so i’d never have to doubt myself
even though i know i wouldn’t
id make sure you would always see me
as a picture perfect woman

my solemn eyes do not have a thought behind them
just a god-like complex
every thought of you seemed colonized
but it was an act of conquest

emptiness is an awful sound
i am the audience to your orchestra of silence
you harvested every seed of peace in me
and grew it into violence

so i set fire to all of you love letters
poems that could never rhyme
the ashes streaked across a once-clean face
and all that is left is soot and grime
roller coaster of emotions
my stomach is still in the air
lingering with that feeling like
i
am about
to die

i grew out of the halo you placed upon my head, i
am no longer your angel
i cannot let my mind turn to chaos
just because your mind is unstable
i should have never compared you to the moon

for you, are a planet of your own
one with dark skies, and overpopulated thoughts
that constantly roam

the bittersweet taste to your name is all that i withheld
i was choosing to live in your world
even though i had the entire universe to myself

so mother nature i became, i birthed
every star
red, blue, green,
brilliant sparks of light
i set fire to your worries revenge is no better than spite
i grew tulips in my temples
they stand tall without your venom
my spirit could finally dance again
she hid in my cerebellum

so my condolences go to parts of you and
all that is left of our memories
& although you still haunt my presence
you are far more than dead to me

to heal is to grow
and time is of the essence
it is to deny, feel anger, bargain, depression
and to thrive in acceptance