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poem

So This Is Death

For Naomi, 1966–2003

Bear Loveday Tyler

So this is death. The silent thief
Who came and stole our last goodbyes
Now slowly turns the wheels of grief.

My golden girl. No lover and no friend
Could blunt those bitter thorns in-turned
Which overcame you, shaped the end

Which shocks us all. With one last sigh
You turned your face to life's wild chief
To end your pain. Your tears are dry

And fall no longer. You'd well earned
Your final sunshine, gold to spend
On your long journey, as you turned.
Death rips a wound no tears can mend.

This poem is from Bear Loveday Tyler's book *Love Grenade*, published by Survivors' Poetry in 2006. Loveday was mentored by Robin Ford.

Chosen by Femi Oyebode.

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