

I saw you for the first time
In English class on a Tuesday morning
And you screamed just as I came in
Because your best friend pushed you off your chair
And you fell

You laughed, even though it must have hurt.

I sat down next to you
Because I liked it when you sat on the table
Because I could see the rainbow socks you wore to match your scarf
Even though the teachers said your socks had to be white
You never listened to them

They don't care that I wear your rainbow scarf to school.

You kissed me two months later
And I was embarrassed because it was my first kiss
And I'd just eaten a salami sandwich
And thought my breath would gross you out
You tasted like oranges

I can't even look at oranges in the supermarket now.

Your mum came home early once
And we'd said we were going to do homework
She caught me with my hand up your shirt
My face turned scarlet every time I saw her
She laughed every time I blushed, and so did you

Your mum doesn't laugh anymore.

You used to call me in the middle of the night
And we'd talk for hours
And the next day in class
We'd fall asleep beside each other
And the teacher let us sleep to stop us from talking in the lesson

I don't sleep much these days; I don't talk much, either.

That day, in autumn
When the wind and our voices were cold and harsh and piercing
And you screamed that you hated me
And I told you that I never wanted to see you again
And I saw your tears as you walked away

I wanted to run after you; I wish I had.

That night, you called me fourteen times
And I didn't pick up because my phone was flat
I went to your house the next morning, to apologise for what I said
Your mum told me that you weren't awake yet
But, she said, she won't mind if you wake her up

But you didn't wake up.

I cried in the hospital when they told us
Your mum couldn't stop shaking
And I held her, because I was scared she'd fall apart if she shook any more
We loved you but it seems
Like you didn't love us

And now you're gone and I loved you, I still love you, but even though I love you, I hate you, too.

For leaving me like this
No thought and no goodbye
No chance for me to help you
No time to say I'm sorry
No way to change your mind

You were only seventeen.