

**dead body on the floor**  
by Madison Barlow

sticky and lost  
dead body on the floor  
swimming, floating in saliva  
burning, back of the throat  
holding it all back  
hit me again  
and then hold me in your arms  
you do this out of love  
what is it that makes you this way

cold but soft  
shoulders aching  
you can see every line of my bones  
my back arches over  
my veins protrude  
colour splotches in and out  
i close my eyes and breathe  
because it all feels like too much

i'm running  
smoking cigarettes  
i smell like a finished fire  
i wish the wind would blow harder  
so i'd lose my breath  
a body that goes missing  
with a soul that couldn't explore

hold me again  
touch my arms the way you do  
rub my forehead  
tell me to clean my room  
clean my lungs, clean my mind  
i am clean for you, i promise  
i'm clean, emptied and wiped down  
i'm a blank slate, ready for you