

Young Birmingham Poets:

Notes from a Pandemic

Summer Jumble by Nafeesa Hamid

I saw a road, I built a bridge to get upon it, my path back to you
brother, huddled in a corner muddled midsummer when the shops
were shut and the streets felt all ours for once.
and I said to him, hey brother, I'd give you the world if I could,
if that's all you're asking and all you need,
but I can't. So here's my number, bell me anytime.

I found a jumper I'd forgot, I gave it to an old friend hoping I'd get to see them again
I found my boots, took a hike to the sea cliffs,
I swayed with my sisters against the sea breeze,
When I got a call to ask you to pack your bags and leave.
I found a bee buzzing at my favourite sycamore tree,
A surgical mask snagged by a branch, everything
and everyone's in demand

I found my pendant that I'd bought in tough times in Germany
A week later, I lost it again and I thought, right that's it
I'm letting you and those past times go, I release to accept more,

I saw a ghost, our beji's spirit walking through the woods,
didn't tell nobody about the horse with my mate's head
I found the courage to say what I mean instead

even if it sounded mad, the feelings there and mutually felt
like, I don't like that and I do like this, simple really,

I mean I wanna live, say hi to my neighbours, I wanna breathe easy
Sing and cook, dance with a friend on some green green grass,
Wave at my nan, eat straight from her hand, offer her my sorry face
in a language she understands, give thanks for all of this, all that is

here, seasons change and planets orbit beyond
the sun rises and sets, atoms bounce
and I bounce with them,
And on some falls, I am as graceful as an autumn leaf
look, I'm reminded this is synchronicity
If you rest your head back and watch the sky change
You'll notice the blueprint always remains the same.