

*Alternatively*

Bailey Williams

Alternatively, I would've told you  
Because it's what you deserved instead of a  
Cacophony of unspoken confessions.  
Drives around our hometown always  
Enough time for  
Fortitude and not  
Gutless silence.  
How was I supposed to tell you?  
I couldn't risk losing you.  
Just because I wanted you, didn't make the risk worth it.  
Kindly, I held my tongue, I  
Let you fall for him and I let us stay us.  
Maybe, in another universe,  
Nothing would have been in my way.  
Our story would've been one for the ages,  
Possibly rivaling that of Romeo and Juliet.  
Quadrants of my mind will always hold space for that  
Reality, the one where I could have you and we'd both be happy.  
Silence is my only option now.  
'Til death do you part, that's what you'll promise him, right?  
Unbeknownst and yet knowingly unrequited.  
Vigorously my chest will hurt and the tears  
Will burn marks into my pillow. One day my love will be  
X-cavated from the coffin of my ribs.  
Yet, today is today and silence is my answer  
Zipping my lips and holding my peace.