

Annika Lauer

Permanent Ink

And I thought that maybe this time if I
wrote in pen ~~instead rather than~~ instead of
pencil
I wouldn't erase so many ~~things lines~~ words.

That the permanence of ~~ink~~
ink
would keep me from ~~pausing~~ stopping
while I was writing and
worrying about what others thought

that for once I would just write
for me;
what I wanted, and how I thought
it ~~sounded~~ felt

~~it was a~~ Stupid idea

because I still crossed out those words
blocked them ~~out~~ with ink
and it made everything
look so ~~stupid~~ ugly

there was part of me
that ~~wished~~ believed that
~~That if I wrote in ink~~ stopped clogging
my lungs with ~~pencil~~ eraser shavings I
could finally breathe
but instead the ink choked my throat
and that pressure on my shoulders remained
~~pressing~~ pushing all the air from my body
until I coughed and coughed like there was
blood in my ~~wind pipe~~ windpipe
but when I tried to get it out

I spat ink all over the page

~~and it coated those lines,~~
~~all my words with a~~
~~permanence I couldn't remove~~
~~so I lost the whole poem instead~~