

## 2022 POETRY OURSELVES Runner-up

### Wheelchair

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Who would've thought  
that mans' greatest invention  
the "wheel"  
made to introduce  
Speed  
Mobility  
Freedom  
could be so  
Binding  
Jailing  
Shameful

Asking for an elevator  
because I can't take the stairs  
like everyone else can.

Meekly raising my hand in a sea of students  
only to be called on first  
because my teachers thought I could use the attention.

Overhearing students gossip  
about how I vanished for a month  
and then came back  
like this

Terrified, because one day  
perhaps no one would be willing to push me  
forward

I wanted to be alone most of the time,  
hoping that I wouldn't scar from the searing stabs of their  
Stolen glances  
Evading eyes  
Sharp whispers

Legs thinning,  
muscles eroding,  
I couldn't run away from the nightmare I was sitting on.

You begin to notice  
Everything that you used to do to others