

BAYPOLL

Prologue: Knew

Light, Sound. Overwhelm the school that I once knew.
A voice, a question in the sea of noise.
Among the others, these words are joys.
“Where from?”
“Where to?”
“Where should I go to become like you?”
I wonder still. I wish I knew.
The place of thought where my dream once grew.

Amelie

Amelie Behind me, my future ahead.
I imagine myself as a girl unwed.
Free from the labors of life adult-led.
Only once did I turn to the girl with hair red.
Regret now I felt as her weak, young heart bled.
For I only saw *my* future ahead.

Maybe

Maybe I wonder, I could have stayed.
Maybe those dark nights I could have prayed.
Maybe in hard times I could have delayed.
Maybe, just maybe I could have made the hard trade.
Given up school for a sister,
Blind and afraid.

Distance

He is called Dr. O'Malley.
He smiles the first day.
A distant smile.
Distant like home.
Like hidden thoughts.
Like a truth you hear
But refuse to face.

On Monday

The morning before Tuesday
The letter came by post.
Word of Birds.
Birds of prey.
Fowl from homes
On a coast faraway.
Bags were packed.
My journey tracked.
And all on Monday.

Priorities

First the journey
Of dreaded flights.
First the birds
I study with care to save
Them from a dreaded plight.
First the chore
Of sleepless nights.
Next a family
I can't reach.

Blind

They tell me I am lucky
To have this mission.
Many would take
If they had the chance.
This chance I had of being here
Not all were given.
My mission is for her who strived to be
What people said she couldn't.
All because *they* were the ones who couldn't see.
They couldn't see past the world's walls,
A path untrod that must be forged.

If They Can

People will hurt us
If they can.
Birds fly free
If they can.
When they fly they soar above
People who hurt
If we let them.
If Birds fly free
Why, so can we.
If birds don't carry the weight of words
Then we won't.
The people who hurt us,
And they will,
Will only keep us on the ground
If we let them.

Seeing

On an island far from home
I watch the birds as they roam.
Small and large,
These birds are free.
Uncontrolled by what others say they can be.
I picture her with dreams of flying
Coming home in tearful crying.
Eyes once full of dreams it seems,
Are now the victims of cruel schemes.
The world is often unkind, you see
For, after that *she* couldn't see.
I watch these birds for Amelie.

Tangled

From my screen I see the invisible.
lines and swooping shapes are tangled.
The paths of birds entwined.
These small and hidden details
That only birds can find.
Birds follow these directions
Like a compass in their minds.
Finding the flight path
That others left behind.

What if, what if
This invisible trail
Could be the way
For those who read braille
To achieve the dream
Of finally flying.
My thoughts are tangled,
But I will keep trying.

From planes they see the invisible.
Lines and swooping shapes are tangled.
The paths of planes entwined.
These small and hidden details
That only pilots find.
They follow these directions
Like a compass in their minds.
Finding the flight path
That others left behind.

All The Children

Another plane.
Another farewell.
Another view
Of how to help.
Another discovery
For the birds.
For the birds and Amelie.
For Amelie
And all the children.

All the children with dreams.
All the children who are paving the way.
Paving the way and breaking the wall.

Baypoll follows a young student on her journey through regret and resilience as she embarks on a trip abroad to study the migration of birds, specifically that of the Blackpoll Warbler (known to Birders as “Baypoll”), with her mentor Dr. O’Malley. During her travels she encounters many species of birds, whilst asking herself what makes them so free. She expresses her anger towards the world’s fixed and cruel views through poetry. All the while, she is motivated in her research by her blind sister, Amelie, whose dreams of piloting were crushed when she lost her sight. Upon her return, the student uses her experience in researching the magnetic field abroad, to create the first blueprint for blind flight technology. This later leads to the passing of a law allowing pilots of all abilities to attend flight school. Among these pilots is her sister, Amelie.