

## Hello, Sun

by Ibrahim Babátundé Ibrahim

My calendar says it's been five months, but for me, it's been just one long stretch of day, or night, or whatever, since I last saw the sun. It isn't like I miss it or anything, and I'm sure not the sun itself nor anything else in the world is aware that I've been absent.

For the first couple of days, I lived almost entirely in my old rocking-chair, waking up, staring into space and zoning out, wading back into short dreamless sleeps; leaving only for trips to the restroom that could take forever, or shorter ones to the fridge for munches and sips that were as tasteless as my vision was static.

Regardless of what I'm looking at, everything morphs into a distant image of the one I lost. Her voice rings in my subconscious, calling my name over and over, laughing, and arguing. I smell her. I feel her touch. I'm crowded, surrounded by her in all her essence; a constant reminder that a part of me is no more; of news that punctured my world, drained out my spirit and left my body hollow.

At least now I also remember there's the sun, and that I still have a life.

I know things can never be the same. Unless finished breath can be pumped back alive, or time can be reeled backwards for destinies to be rewritten, it can never be. I'll probably fully recover, find someone else and start something afresh, but the six years I spent with her – the six years that is the best time of my life – will not stop being a black hole that will continue to suck me in at any time.

A bush of overgrown hair crowds my head, cheeks and chin, forcing my face back for a second look whenever I chance upon a mirror. I do as I make my way to the front-door. I see that I've missed a buttonhole and take my time to redo them all.

Maybe I'm too lost in this hole to ever make it out, or maybe it's not as bad as it seems, and time will fill it back up with new memories. Whatever it is, it all starts with me opening up to this brightness that has become so distant since the burial; my last day out.

My eyes wink a squint and my face melts into a smile. Hello, Sun!

