

“Where did they go?”

A short shadow ambles along the pavement, slowly towards the traffic lights where the lights illuminate so bright it blinds me to certain areas of my body. After just one blink, they're gone. Nowhere to be seen, no noise was made, no one noticed, apart from me of course. Where did they go? In a city like me, the never-ending cacophony overwhelms in a way that anyone can fall through the gaps in the drains, the train tracks, even the potholes in the road and no one will notice. But I want them to know, I noticed.

Where did they go? Did they rise to the horizons and screamed with the crows, or did they drop in a corner of the river and swam with the bottles. Did they look down from the high-rise they lived in and wondered if they jumped, would they land or would they just disappear.

For the creative writing rotation, we looked at how various directions you could take creative writing and not to be restricted to just the very literal meaning of an object or a scenery. With that in mind, I started my rotation final project, 150 words short story inspired by a photo I took of London at night and one of my favourite non-fictions “A Lonely City” by Olivia Laing.

In my short story, I wanted to capture the feeling of being overwhelmed freshly moved in a new city, as big as London. There is no specific explanation for exactly what happened in my story, I wrote it with the intention of it being quite vague. But the over-arching plot is that it is written from the perspective of the city or someone with a more omnipresent view of the London looking down at regular people on the streets. It starts off with a short shadow disappearing in a blink of an eye, reflecting the feeling of insignificance that people often feels when they are overwhelmed in a new environment. I would say that this short story is just the beginning to a longer story, initially I wanted to write a story with this perspective observing more people living their day-to-day life. I have never considered writing poetry before this rotation but I really enjoyed the freedom of expression through this medium, so it is something I want to incorporate more into my personal work.

<https://ouolivia.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2021/11/05/creative-writing/>