

Shadow

Yash Seyedbagheri

Phil sees his shadow.

I see shadows too. Older sisters, mothers, smiles, and hugs over Zoom. Shadows of I-love-yous, words crackling, and promises to see each other soon.

I see shadows of Netflix binges without chill, couches too large for one.

And I see shadows of voluminous, yet easily drained Merlot.

How I see shadows of laughter. Bad jokes I once told. My sister's nickname for me, Sunny. Sunsets, lavender, pink, and peach that we all danced in, Mama, Nan, and I.

I see myself slouching instead of striding, shadows of seconds hands that don't tick.

I see my shadow.

Yash Seyedbagheri is a graduate of Colorado State University's MFA program. His stories, "Soon," "How To Be A Good Episcopalian," and "Tales From A Communion Line," were nominated for Pushcarts. Yash's work has been published in The Journal of Compressed Creative Arts, Write City Magazine, and Ariel Chart, among others.