

I LOVE YOU FROM AFAR by Kathleen Habel

I love you from afar
and wish you could be closer
and sometimes even be beside me
But you gave your heart away long before I met you
and it is still there in that place
comfortable and safe
I love you from afar
for so very, very long
I don't even remember the hour, day or year that you became a tide
that lapped at the edges of my heart
I saw you across a room
you took my hand in yours, a courtesy only
and leaned in to hear my name
I felt something flutter in my chest
I love you from afar
as we grew from acquaintance to friend
from conversations about the weather
to conversations about our compasses
My best kept secret, this silent affection
kept in a white satin box, tied with a slender silver ribbon, stored in the corner of my
heart,
behind other boxes, never to be opened
I love you from afar
and know that you love ___ and ___
I love those things too!
But I cannot fill in the spaces because then you would know my secret
my poem would somehow find its way to you as we send our verses to each other every
now
and then because words are your companions, too
I would be so afraid that you would slip away or even run
if suddenly you know
Love is a burden when permission has not been granted
I love you from afar, but
I have not sent you a glittery Valentine
a dozen red roses
or chocolates wrapped in gold foil
I have not given you
a book inscribed with flowery pen words
a charm to wear around your neck
a silly nickname
a handsome silk tie
I have not kissed you on a velvety black night
or clasped your hand and forgot to let go
or hugged you into the next moment

I have loved you from afar
I love you from afar
and I will not apologize
for the filling up that space that years for something transcendent
for love that recognizes you
that washes over the grey
and is solitary like the ocean against the blue