

»» A long day

Fardowsa Mohamed

Dunedin School of Medicine
Otago Medical School
University of Otago

> Fardowsa is a Trainee Intern at University of Otago, Dunedin. She has written poetry for most of her life and has recent publications in *Landfall 233* and *Poetry New Zealand 2018*. She sees herself landing in a surgical career in the future.

I look out on to the empty street from the eighth floor;
houses darken into silhouettes. My sneakers creak
through the hollow hallways, my yawn echoes. I hear
the man in the solo room cough weakly. His chest,
a cathedral drowning from the basement to the highest mural,
and soon, all of Rome will be swallowed by the rising tide.
He knows that, I think, at least I do, the doctor does, his wife
with her head hung, back bent forward in pre-emptive grief, does.
When I went into his room I was the last new face he'd see.
I asked him if he wanted anything and
he said, another day.

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