

## **Katherine Gehan**

### **When You Were Six**

We drove past a cemetery on the way home from a party,  
And you didn't know why the hills were punctured with stone.  
I explained decay versus cremation as we sped fifty-miles an hour  
away from the place where gravestones erupt, like teeth through the gums.

What is inside a bone? Blood.  
What is inside the blood? Cells. Molecules. Atoms.

By the time we were home I was talking nuclear physics  
And the Manhattan Project, all thanks to the dead.

One day I will be stardust, motes of clinging matter,  
Waiting for you to join me.

**Katherine Gehan** earned her MFA in fiction from Emerson College and a BA in English from Haverford College. She is Senior Fiction Editor at *Our Stories* and recently had work published in *971 MENU*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency* and *Used Furniture Review*.