

The Past
by Claire Bennet

a tiger doesn't know that it's jailed in a zoo
it only knows it can't get out,
can't escape the people watching
asking
wanting more
 day in
 day out
 day in
 day out
 day in
 day out
constant noise decides the day
suns rise
 we move
 we sway
 never stopping to say
 i need a moment to breathe
(who would listen, anyway?)
it's just noise
 so we move
 never slowing
 always running
 towards?
 away?
 more
 go
 move
 don't slow
don't let anybody know
or they'll feed you to the lion in the cage next door
if they think you won't
 fight back.
so we move with the rhythms
decided one day long ago
constant noise
shouting, yelling, a whisper through
the sounds
please (a whisper)
police! They Yell.
not allowed a moment
never stop, not for a moment
whispers blister through
the walls around us

and they'll
eat
us
up.

so we move
we sway
don't dream
can't get away
they feed us shadows and fraying rope
ragged fingernails taste like shattered hopes
suns rise

suns set
we dare
(to dream)
no more silent screams
instead,
fields,
flowers,
poppies,
roses,
plucking daisy petals
i love me

i love me not
we wake up to shards of metal
underneath our feet
burning hot from the sun.
can we get away?

we move
walk about
day in
day out
day in
day out
dying
day
out.