## Brother

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> Brother, you left me behind To live in crowded isolation Wide-eyed and headstrong and alone

Brother, you left me behind
In a derelict town where no one spoke
No one listened
And no one but me could hear the roaring silence

Brother, you left me behind
To walk streets of crystal
Burning under a blazing sun
And brutalized under a daffodil star

Brother, you left me behind
With girls as much like orphans as those with living parents could be
While train tracks and strangers in black
Stole our families from our sides

Brother, you left me behind
To slave my gullible youth away
Making German grenades, detonated with irony
Fueled by a fruitless and desperate optimism

Brother, you left me behind
Under siege from a downpour of explosions
A rain of carnage
On a parched landscape

Brother, you left me behind
To hold my wasting form upright
With the barrel of a gun in my side
While courage taunted from behind the façade of a brave face

Brother, you left me behind Until I was left with near to nothing

## A void where my vibrant heart should have been pounding Left to barter hope for my survival

Brother, you left me behind
And when we were liberated
I was no more than oxygen rasping its way through an unwilling host
I had freedom but lacked someone with whom to share it

For you escaped long before me, and, Brother, you left me behind But, Brother, I wish you'd left alive