the ghosts of the undead write
themselves into the strangest
places. the signature in a painting

on my wall, the restaurant I walk
past weekly but haven’t entered
since the holiday art gala when

he wore Levis with a suit jacket,
swirling wine in the bottom of a blue
plastic cup printed with the name

of a charity. after dinner while everyone
was laughing he told me that September
10th of 2001, he was in the Twin

Towers, and what if the planes
had come a day early? then he pressed
a box of chocolates into my hand

and wished me a Merry Christmas.
I didn’t throw the tin away until
I moved six years later. sometimes

I worry that I loved him into non-
existence, that I mistook my own poems for answers, like when I wrote

goddamn, he could light up

a room. the ghosts of the undead write themselves into the strangest places, and when I say undead I mean alive and maybe happy somewhere else. I mean maybe someday we’ll walk into the same coffee shop and I’ll tell him that I’ve tried to write myself out of loving him for three years now, but still can’t take his painting down.