

ways of saying i love you

my family is a garland untied along the pavement
each member a flower bobbing as though a bee just

landed and flew away but it isn't a bee it is my uncle
in a hearse, no one saw him but they say he is gone

how do you say I'm sorry without a hand on a shoulder
how does Appa say i love you without a cross on my forehead

when we say goodbye my mum has something in her eye
I want to tell her how much I think about her and miss her

but talk instead about my poems and the weather, as we leave
she hands me a bag of tupperware, warns me to keep it upright

on the way home, it's in the backseat belted-up, sobbing curry
a scent that clings to my suit like a mother to a child's hand

my girlfriend asks me why i'm quiet but I cannot find the words
like I couldn't find the words so i roll all the windows up,

breath so that the scent fills my lungs like the Tupperware fills
every tray in my fridge even after we've eaten most of it.

i want to ring my mum to tell her how much I love her
but settle for telling her how great the mutton rolls are

She tells me to put some in the freezer for another day, So I do
they are there all year. I haven't the courage to eat them