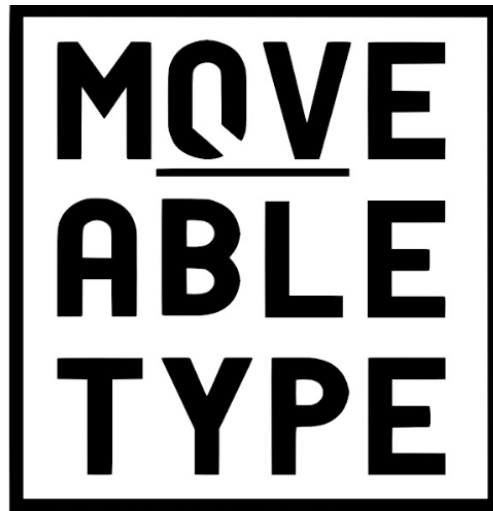




Poem: 'An Unspoken Promise'

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CREATIVE WORKS

An Unspoken Promise

LYDIA PEARSON

Our chants
rise into the air,
an unspoken promise.
A hand reaching out
to find yours, but unable to—

just yet.

Our chants
stick in our throats,
leaving an aftertaste on our tongues.
Your oppression is a weight, holding you down.
We wish to ease the heavy burden in your hearts.
We are not free until we are all free. Your freedom has not been secured

just yet.

Our chants
gradually breathed into life,
birds lifted by the wings of hope and love.
We are a delicate and strong thread, tighter and tighter.
You can break individual threads, but not our warmly-woven pattern.
We march on like the time that has passed without our fallen ones.
We are their voices. Not everybody will rise up and chant their song

just yet.

Our words are our promise,
tucked neatly into our hearts.
Each day brings a new sunrise, although this does not
wash away the blood that has been spilled on the streets.
We watch back at ourselves, retrace the paths, and mark
new ones with the sands of time we have been granted.
Life is not a promise. We still stand strong, undefeated,
a chain that cannot be pulled apart. We will create a wall
to protect and shelter you. We are far from victory. We are not there

just yet.

Yet, you can bet that we will fight hard for your rights,
and we will hold your words up like lanterns in the dark.
And your love, your lives, your courage—
do not fear; we will never forget.

Our protests are our promise, but we are not there—
not yet.

* * * *

Lydia Pearson is an emerging 22-year-old writer from Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire. She has had over 35 poems published, alongside 16 posts for Mental Health Notebook, 5 pieces of short fiction, 14 blog posts and 24 articles. In addition to this, she has published 260+ works on AO3 since April 2019. She was shortlisted for The Guardian's Positive Action Disability Scheme 2025. She is currently studying English Literature and Creative Writing at Lancaster University and hopes to get a 2:1 when she graduates in July 2026. She has also done some work for radio and TV, and works part-time as a tutor and a Sales Assistant, and volunteers at her local food bank. Her writing explores a variety of themes, including social issues, romance, friendship, identity, loss and more. She is working on her debut novel currently and hopes to become a high-profile journalist, poet and author one day.