

WEDDING DAY

Emily Shaffer*

There's a car parked on the side of the road,
There's a girl inside, sitting alone,
There's the man she loved quickly walking away
As her dreams are smashed on stone.
A church full of people waiting,
A nervous friend sits in the back,
A sinking feeling of what could be,
As a red sky turns to black.
The cross that hangs there before us
Reminds us with faith we'll rise,
But it also tells of a cruel painful world
Where a good man suffers and dies.
She sits in the car and remembers
All the men she had tried to forget,
All the hope and prayers that turned into pain,
All the scars and all the regret.
She sits in the car and she wonders
If there's nothing for her but tears,
If her struggles and strength are illusions at best,
Leaving nothing when the dust clears.
And why should she keep on going?
How can she do it again?
How can she count yet another scar?
When will it ever end?
So she picks up the phone and she dials
As her tears wash the world away,
She's going home to be alone,
Please tell the guests not to stay.
I sit in the church and I wonder
How life can be so unfair,
How a good man was nailed to a cross
And a good girl can live in despair.
There are secrets all around me
And I struggle to hear what they are,
But I'll never know why love is so cold
As the girl sits alone in the car.

* **EMILY SHAFFER** grew up in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and has been writing poetry, fiction, plays, and essays since she was ten. She has an MFA in film production from Boston University and has worked in publishing and film in New York. She is currently co-writing a script and writes book reviews on young adult fiction for several websites. She has lived in Israel, London, and France, but considers home to be New York City.