Lullaby Shift

5 a.m., the kettle sighs
Two jobs waiting, no goodbyes
He's gone again, or maybe near
Either way, it's never clear

Neighbours guard my wee boy
I pay in favours, I pay in void
The rent devours, the buses bite
I walk on hunger throughout the night

But when the day has stripped me bare
There's one small voice that keeps me there

He says, mummy close your eyes
I'll read to you, the night will fly
Tucks the blanket, dims the light
Her only friend, her lullaby

Uniform stained, my body sore
I lock the door, then start once more
Hours stacked like brittle glass
Each one cuts, but still they pass

He draws the sun with broken pens
Tells me of dragons, schools, and friends
And while I fade before the page
He leads me gently off the stage

The world can break it, always tries
But love survives in lullabies

He says, mummy close your eyes
I'll read to you, the night will fly
Tucks the blanket, dims the light
Her only friend, her lullaby

I wanted more, but this is ours
A cardboard crown, a bed of stars
He holds the night with open hands
The child who makes the dark less grand

He says, mummy close your eyes
I'll read to you, the night will fly
Tucks the blanket, dims the light
Her only friend, her lullaby

He says, mummy close your eyes
I'll read to you, the night will fly
Tucks the blanket, dims the light
Her only friend, her lullaby

Her only friend, her lullaby
Her only friend, her lullaby
Her only friend, her lullaby
Her only friend, her lullaby