

Allison Stein

universe expanding (quickly away from)

smallest / hands / ev
er / glimpsed. like / you /
could / hold / a / dro
p / of / gas / o / line
ineachpalmfor1secbeforedropping.
/ monday, calling up your aunt /
on the last / payphone in pennsl /
van / ia and / forget / ting the
number / and / pressing the
4 / key/ o / ver and / over
with your litt / le fingers. a
/ lukewarm bit of ache from / a / ha
logen bulb: la / ter, by the back /
door ke / eping the / purple sk
y out. and / your fingernails /
just / look / like smallseeds
b / l / eached in / sun. fin /
ally , you / beneath the w / ater
at the / lake with se / aweed /
wailing beneath / your wr /
ists' chrysalis fila / ment, and / the gr
/ een through the sur / face
just another t / hing you cannot h /
old.

Allison Stein is a seventeen-year-old poet and high school student living in Pennsylvania. Her work has received national recognition from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and has appeared in *SOFTBLOW*, *Dreams Walking*, *Riggwelter Press*, and others. When she's not writing, she works at an ice cream shop or makes collage art.