The Mirror

Dust is collecting under the bed. The imprints of your wet feet are still visible on the mosaic floors. I have not swept or washed them since you left, wanting perhaps to preserve your absence.

It is easier to overlook you in the bath, my lipstick, mascara, the various make-up jars crowd your razorblades, shaving cream and brush. The wild freshness of limes is now on all the towels and sheets, I can't remember the fragrance of your cologne for you dabbed the last few drops on my arm before you left.

I wanted to buy a mirror for my makeshift vanity in the bedroom, made of cardboard box and an old suitcase of yours, but it would reflect the pillow on which you slept, a blank wall is more discreet.

LALA HEINE-KOEHN