

Cling Film

Does she...?

Ableism. Verb. *The act of wrapping the world in cling film.*

ableism is the steel band around my wrist
with my name and a number for when you find me unconscious
you know to take me seriously

Does she...?

ableism is the government telling me to *stay at home*
so that if Covid takes my breath you won't have to watch
~~take a stand~~

ableism is the interviewer who reassures:
we don't see your disability
~~take a stand~~

Does she...?

ableism is the chairless corridors
that command me to wait at home
quietly
~~take a stand~~

or the dog shit you didn't pick up
that I am forced to wheel through
and it stains my wings

or the absent ramps that stop me taking off
from the pavement and soaring up, up above Cardiff
~~take a stand~~

or the job that doesn't want part timers
~~take a stand~~

or the surgeon's letters carved on my belly

POETRY WALES

that you can't read

or the train I can't take because I look *too healthy* for that chair

or the rusting car I'm not allowed to drive

Does she...?

or the *I'm sorrys*
scattered in rubber shavings

ableism is the mate who said
your illness doesn't bother me

or the *you look well* on days
I hang my wings at home

Does she...?

or the glass on the tarmac that erases my tread

Does she...?

or the activism that fights for all

take a stand

ableism is the face that asks
how do you dance?
but doesn't think to look up to the sky

Does she...?

or the film you've wrapped me in
as I move with palms open to the clouds

POETRY WALES

whilst yours are bound to the ground

~~take a stand~~

ableism is the marathon you'll want me to run
one day to prove *how far I've come*

or the poems you'll demand

ableism is the cling film you've wrapped around everything

everything

I reach for your hand
but I can't feel your skin

just the cling film
and it's hard to tear.