Space Drifters

Zoe Johnson

"Space Drifters" is a poem that describes two beings wandering the galaxy together, possibly after a catastrophic event destroyed their planet. Space is lonely, but these entities hold on to each other, spiraling together like the double helix of DNA. Rather than succumbing to the darkness, the beings find beauty in their drifting. The imagery attempts to capture the glory of the universe—stars, planets, swirling masses of color. Ultimately, the universe is not uncaring. It guides the couple, illuminating the path to new beginnings. Together, the space

We took what we could
from the errant stars,
and fashioned a way of living,
a sort of subsistence on spacedust.

And like universal urchins,
we traverse these mobile masses,
thickening swaths of darkness
split by our ultraviolet madness—

you, the blue glow of your eyes,
the billow of an atmospheric dress,

and I, my solar soul
iridescent and orange—

breaching the gravitational fields of broken worlds.
Weeping when celestial bodies brighten for us.
Just us, as we navigate the galaxy.
Blinking, flickering, going dark.

Knowing we, too, will one day plummet,
accelerate toward a baby planet,
split the rock in two. Merge, expand,
pulling hapless remnants into us.

But when we plunge, we'll cling together,
and the stars will light the way:
the brilliance of the spotlight,
the setting of a stage.

About the Author

Zoe Johnson is a senior pursuing dual degrees in Writing and Cell Biology and Neuroscience, with a French minor. She has been a Writing Center tutor since 2022. Zoe was born and raised in Bozeman, and enjoys reading, drawing, and watching black and white movies. After graduating in May 2025, she plans to focus on writing stories and poetry.