

## Have Been Here Before

The room is dark,  
a single dim lamp casts the room in shadow and his is the biggest,  
more like a hole in the room than a physical presence.  
You can feel his animosity.  
His silence is enough to warn you of that.  
You have stepped back in time.  
It's the same argument.  
The person you're having it with just looks different.  
The same fear hides behind his eyes, the one that sees him losing  
you.  
His words dress your actions in a deceit that you never intended.  
You watch him throw a few lies at you like breadcrumbs on the  
surface of still cold water.  
Your intoxicated mind scrambles to understand  
He only wants you to acknowledge the point he's trying to make.  
He's afraid.  
He tells you he was worried about your safety.  
He asks you over and over and over why you took so long even  
though you both know no answer will ever be enough because  
it's not really even what he's asking.  
He's telling you he doesn't trust you that he fears you and the hurt  
you have the ability to inflict upon him.  
He's sitting there beneath you on the bed so small  
Like a child.  
In this moment you could be his mother and you know the next  
part very well,  
You have lived it so many times before.

This is the part where you lean down, you hold his shoulders and  
you force his frightened eyes into your own and you promise  
him not to worry, because you love him.  
But you don't.  
Instead you let your whole body fall next to him, with the weight of  
a person that knows a heart is now placed in their hands.  
You close your eyes.  
You swallow, your mouth dry with dredged up memories from a  
past you had hoped you had left far behind.  
You cannot stop his fears.  
Instead you battle the momentous and overwhelming sadness that  
comes with the realization that you have been here before and  
you know exactly how it ends.  
You are too tired to try to swim through this sea of sadness so you  
sigh  
You sit back up, and you kiss him tenderly  
He gives in.  
Your bodies swing together in the lonely dance of fear and  
heartbreak for one more night,  
The dim light of the one lamp  
Turning both your bodies into one shadow.

*Mia Robinson*