

“Undone” by [Padma Venkatraman](#)

They ignored the new boy,
snickering behind his back.

In silence, I stayed safe.
My lips pressed together.

Growing bolder, they
pierced him with arrow-sharp
words.

I pretended
I hadn't heard.

They twisted his arms.
One word escaped his lips
before they dragged him
out of sight, out of earshot:
“Cowards!”

I ran away.

All the words
I didn't say haunt me every day.