

## Setting Fires

I've noticed that people are on this  
Ever-revolving door syndrome.  
I've been in Holloway five times,  
I've made threats to set fire to things.

I wondered what the hell I was doing there,  
I think it was just fucking hell,  
I felt like I'd died and gone to hell.

I'm on that ever cycle of - you know -  
You're in and out, in and out, in and out.  
I was given some help,  
I was let out again.

I usually phone the police and make threats.  
Discharged from my mental health team,  
Left homeless,  
I called the fire brigade.  
I asked the Judge if I could have a sentence.

I saw people leaving and returning the next morning,  
I heard people say that Holloway was home.  
I think some people did find it traumatic.  
I feel alright talking about it.

I'm a self-harmer.  
I'm not really -  
I'm not that bad you know.  
I got released and then I went back,  
I didn't have many people visiting me.

I'm just being punished,  
I am, that's obvious.  
When you can't cope, you're punished for it.

## Locked in

Someone tried to hang their bloody self,  
I had to support her.  
I don't know what happened but anyway she ended up dead.

I've always found Holloway to be –  
It's never been my home.  
I found the place a bit eerie of a night.

I used to eat in my room,  
I had a room of my own.  
I preferred being locked behind the door.

I couldn't cope with the people,  
I just used to stay in my room.  
I prefer to be locked in.

It's a bit noisy,  
It's a bit you know, chaotic.  
I used to ask just to be locked in.

## Shipped Out

I was there for eight months

I mean

I don't know how it felt for

I don't know how

I don't know

I don't

I don't know what I'd do

I don't know

I don't

I can't imagine what it must be like

I don't know what it's like there now

I was shipped out

I don't remember

I have to say

I was under mental health

I was shipped out

I mean

I don't remember

I don't want it

I'm ti-

I'm

I'm really tired

I think you just tend to think it's going to go on for ever and ever amen

## **I tended to keep to myself**

I can avoid

I'm in a single

I've been in a dormitory

I mean

I always knew I was going home so

I tend to

I tended to keep myself to myself

I didn't interact with other prisoners

I was just passing through

I didn't want to go in and out of their lives

I tended to keep to myself

I wasn't staying a long time

# stanleypickergallery:

These poems were written by Carly Guest & Rachel Seoighe for *The End of the Sentence* by Judy Price at Stanley Picker Gallery, Kingston University (February-April 2020). The poems are made up of extracts of interviews with two women who were once imprisoned in HMP Holloway. Rachel and Carly selected the 'I' statements from the interview transcripts and arranged them, line by line, to form poems.

*The End of the Sentence* presents artist Judy Price's research on Holloway Women's Prison. The exhibition reflects on the impact of the criminal justice system on women, and features new work by Price, archival material, and artists and writers invited by Price including Erika Flowers, Carly Guest & Rachel Seoighe, Hannah Hull, Katrina McPherson and Nina Ward.

## **Carly Guest & Rachel Seoighe**

Dr Carly Guest is a senior lecturer in Sociology at Middlesex University, and Dr Rachel Seoighe is a lecturer in Criminology at the University of Kent. Together they co-wrote *Familiarity and strangeness: Seeing everyday practices of punishment and resistance in Holloway Prison* (Punishment & Society, 2019) in which they developed an innovation, emotion-led methodology to explore photographs of the decommissioned Holloway Prison building. Carly and Rachel are active members of Reclaim Holloway.

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