

# Express Lane

*by* Marlan Warren

"What happened to the Starbucks?"  
the white haired lady in front of me  
Asked the guy in front of her.  
He mumbled. She mumbled.  
The cashier kept moving stuff.  
Her turn.  
"Is it closed for good?" she asked me.  
"What?"  
"Oh look at this..." Showing me her snapped mask string.  
Guy behind me grunted.  
I told her Daiso next door has masks.  
"My earring," she said. "It got caught."  
"Come ON," he grunted.  
And they are made so flimsy but I have a big box like 50 at home  
but what good does that do me now? I can't believe the Starbucks is  
closed for good...  
She had paid, but she hurried off  
leaving behind her groceries  
and a Starbucks cup  
that was half full.  
I hurried my transaction  
But caught a glimpse  
The Guy Behind Me  
only had one item.  
And he looked too young  
to fully grasp  
Loneliness.

