

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.

