

**Drywall**  
**Yash Seyedbagheri**

Mother put up lavender paper with tenderness, sister Nancy and me helping.

After Dad got fired from teaching, he ripped it out, thick rips piercing our bedrooms. He threw beer bottles at the walls, put his fists through them. In the process he knocked out some drywall.

They fixed the drywall. Dad put up black and white wallpaper, said wallpaper should be functional. Beauty was overrated.

The fists and beers continued. Dad said he wanted a piece of the world, devoid of expectation.

The drywall collapsed again.

Dad left.

We painted the walls lavender again. But the cracks seemed bigger.

Yash Seyedbagheri is a graduate of Colorado State University's MFA program in fiction. A native of Idaho, Yash's work is forthcoming or has been published in *WestWard Quarterly*, *Café Lit*, and *Ariel Chart*, among others.