

autumn

BY ROB COOK

dedicated to GW170817, the first observed merger of neutron stars

watching a couple nestling
through a confetti of golden leaves
feeling your hand no longer in mine
your gold still here on my finger
forever you said when you put it there

but even it is bound to the procession of days
the day the jeweler fashioned it
the day the miner pulled it from the depths
the time before days when its atoms were forged
in the fiery union of two neutron stars

and today — this one particular day
leaves dancing to an autumn air
world fading in the lingering light
time flowing relentlessly along
everything eventually succumbing to its wake

even gold
even you