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## The Undoing

Mason Wray

*University of Mississippi*

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THE UNDOING

A Thesis  
presented in partial fulfillment of requirements  
for the degree of Master of Fine Arts  
in the Department of English  
The University of Mississippi

by

MASON WRAY

August 2021

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## ABSTRACT

A collection of poems.

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## **The Undoing**

## **The Other Big Bang**

An equal and opposite burst expanding  
from the same particle but in reverse.  
Where peaches unripen in the family orchard.  
A mom-and-pop deli replaces the condos on Second Ave.  
OutKast never breaks up. They only get back together.

My sister is getting smaller by the day,  
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In the other big bang, we start  
with all the knowledge we'll ever know  
then forget it piece by piece.

So even after my grandmother's brain  
stitches itself whole, vanquishes the plaque  
that shows up like coffee stains in scans,  
still she becomes more unknowing by the day.

But we all become naïve with her. Everyone  
communes over fears of growing young:  
how we'll tie our shoes, cross the road alone.  
I am planning an expedition. One day I hope  
to have never known you yet.

## The Other Big Bang

An equal and opposite burst expanding  
from the same particle but in reverse.  
Where peaches unripen in the family orchard.  
A mom-and-pop deli replaces the condos on Second Ave.  
OutKast never breaks up. They only get back together.

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## VITA

Mason Wray is from Decatur, Georgia and received a B.A. in International Affairs from the University of Georgia. He is currently an MFA candidate at the University of Mississippi, where he has served as poetry editor of *Yalobusha Review*. He's received support from Bread Loaf, and his work has been published in *Ploughshares*, *New Ohio Review*, *Southwest Review* and *New Letters Magazine*. He lives in Oxford, Mississippi.