

## Trinkets

pages gifted from an ex-best friend, whited out, cut out  
tokens pasted to the paper; flowers, pamphlets from a trip to Japan  
i wish i'd been, too, but my mother took me to Russia instead,  
to see people who are dead now, disintegrating photos  
nobody ever looks for. catalogue of absence: my parents'  
CD collection, dust-coated, should probably hold a garage sale  
and see which of my old school friends show up, accidentally  
purchase my old diaries, accidentally left beside my dead grandmother's  
jewellery. she never wore anything we bought her: a Pandora  
box of wasted money, a **матрёшка** mistakenly called a **бабушка**.

*Svetlana Sterlin*