

Leaving care's last email by Jacqui Lovell

This poem reflects life as a young person leaving care and the inaction of social 'care'.

Is that what you do?
You just dis-card them
The end...
Now be on your way
You go on holiday
to avoid responsibility
So it falls to me
If I'd done that
with my daughters
you'd have been within
your rights to say
I was neglectful
Now the shoe is on
the other foot
and I reckon
its corporate cowardice
and piss poor parenting
based on the allocation
(or not) of resources
For all your cards
and fancy words
awards and hugs and kisses
when you 'buy' into
the system
there's always
something missing
whether of care or connection
or just wrong direction
So break out of your shell
put down that pro-fession
pick up your heart
and do your part
for all our sakes
cos the stain
and the strain
festering inside
will do it for you

if you don't
do it yourself
Get down off that shelf
cos there's no them and us
and we're all less
than we imagine...