

## Allied through Adversity by Skylar Kuroda

Across our expansive world  
People, of diverse genders and ages, races and dreams, band together  
From small island villages nestled under a creamy, cerulean sky  
To the largest cities, bustling with energy  
Bombarded by an overwhelming, thought-consuming fear  
Brought forth by invisible organisms  
Attacking our physical being  
Weakening bodies, while our minds strengthen  
Disregarding differences,  
Welcoming new ideas,  
Tearing apart the strict mental routine that used to confine us,  
And relinquishing comfortable habits  
To the unpredictable unknown

We gather virtually, our existence defined by the presence of a camera or microphone  
We stroll along the once-crowded streets, decked in masks and shields  
Recognizing the fresh, free air and boarded-up buildings  
Having faith that we'll get through this, eventually

Overcome with despair,  
We gaze upon the horizon  
A blocky citiscape with faded lights  
Or a mountain slipping into the sea  
Different sights  
Different people  
But the same belief  
That this time will end  
That we may set foot outdoors again, into the sunlight  
That we shall recognize the earth's suffering and ours  
And somehow fix both

We, diverse individuals, come together  
Physically divided  
Barricaded  
Confined  
Miles away and countries apart

And yet united in hope.