

"Gasping for Breath, Ears Ringing" is a story that came to me after a band I was in called Perfect Future played a farewell show just prior to going to grad school. For the better part of a decade, my identity was wrapped up within the music scene, and even though it had been my decision to leave, that farewell show felt both the joy of a wedding and the mourning of a funeral. Of course, a lot of details changed in fictionalizing the story, especially since I'm not that much like any of the characters in this story. I've been working on a linked collection about a DIY punk band for a while, and since I'd never read a band break-up story that I felt accurately got the emotion of a farewell show correct, it became really important to me to attempt to render what celebrating something that is coming to an end feels like.