

Third Place Winner

Uncrushed

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Imagine first that you're a can of grape soda.
Why grape? You're grape. Just trust me.

This particular can of grape soda is very dented and partially crushed.
How? A million ways. It doesn't matter. An elephant sat on it.

What would possess an elephant to sit on a can of grape soda?
Maybe this elephant had a difficult young elephanthood and isn't able to relate appropriately to carbonated beverages (especially sweet ones).
Failing to appreciate your inherent grapeness, this elephant you've encountered was emotionally unavailable for soda drinking and sat on you instead.

Ksssst...that's the sound you make when the wrong end of an elephant presses down on you very hard.
For a moment you thought you could bear it, but you're only aluminum.
Ksst...your insides are on the outside and, it's a mess
also a waste.

What's left of you is warm and flat. You're leaking and your can is sticky.
Ants have found you out – crawly and opportunistic.
You weren't meant for ants.

Once you dreamt of ice cubes tinkling in a glass, perhaps even a scoop of vanilla ice cream and bendy straw, you could have been a Purple Cow at a children's birthday party.

None of that will happen now.

Ants are all you see. There's only a sip left in you anyway.

Maybe the ants should have it.

But...but...what if there was a Recarbonizing Principal of Being available to all soft drinks who seek? Generous, ebullient and yours for the asking!

How would that go? The sudden rush of effervescence... an irresistible pressure from within, uncrushing you from the inside out.

You are so fizzy now!