

2022

## To My Childhood Home

Mackenzie Christie  
mc1548@messiah.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://mosaic.messiah.edu/peregrinereview>

 Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Permanent URL:

---

### Recommended Citation

Christie, Mackenzie (2022) "To My Childhood Home," *The Peregrine Review*. Vol. 35, Article 8.  
Available at: <https://mosaic.messiah.edu/peregrinereview/vol35/iss1/8>

Sharpening Intellect | Deepening Christian Faith | Inspiring Action

Messiah University is a Christian university of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.

# TO MY CHILDHOOD HOME

*Mackenzie Christie*

i was born in a homemade house  
full of hand-me-down people  
fresh paint smell still fills the hallway, lingers  
in my nose like smoke from the  
home oven, caught fire when  
monkey bread and memories  
turned to charcoal on the drip pan

my body is a sanctuary for those  
scorched crumbs of life, scarfed down the way  
starving animals do it  
gluttonous and nostalgic, a tendency to devour  
time in mouthfuls

i'm most alive in my thoughts, mostly the  
living room dance parties on friday nights and  
flash karaoke recorded on the home computer  
the whole world stuffed inside a  
10x12 kitchen space with  
yellow walls that looked nothing like the sun

---

to my childhood home

life leaked through the doors we left open overnight  
and God crept through window screens  
like a secret that stops existing in the morning  
vulnerability became volatile  
when we started leaving  
fresh cooked food on a dimly lit counter space  
  
our moments died in the form of  
  
fruit flies and black mold  
  
and for the first time, i realized that life decays,  
  
but time rots

