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Smoke

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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.

Smoke

Zoe Leininger

I like the smell of cigarette smoke.
The haze In the air. It's not really smoke.
Not really.
It's late night chats with older sisters,
Front porch swing creaking as we
Pass the carton of Rocky Road
Under the twinkling fairy lights,
And we choke on the whispered names
of stupid boys. And give advice that
won't be followed.
It's dreams of the wide open future
Planned under a wide open sky.
Our jackets as pillows in the damp grass
Shoulders touching,
elbows bumping,
as we point up at the stars.
Time standing still until the light
Of the sunrise fades out the stars.
It's the thrill of danger as we hear
Through the open window,
The clangs and stomps of Mom
preparing our breakfast.
And we quickly snuff out the cigarettes
to hide them among the hyacinths,
smoke still lingering in the dewy air.