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## **Gold-Washed Sky**

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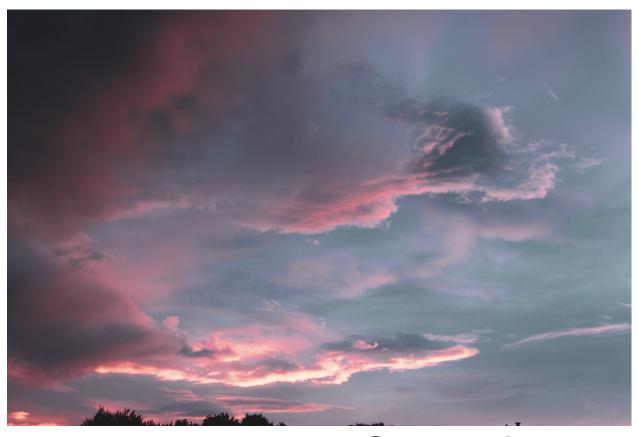
## GOLD-WASHED SKY

# Abby Smoker

tell me how it is that the ugliest days can be redeemed by a single sunset: gold and shimmering blush washed across the skywho wrote it into the world that the smallest, gentlest things should save us from calling these our rockiest days? who decided a kind note at 8 a.m. should affect us like fairy dust who designed stars to pour us full of wonder, or trained healthy laughter to be so contagious? it is a challenge to label anything as utterly desolate on a planet such as this, where Heaven so stubbornly starts to manifest in glimpses, in gifts. it's true, we are broken by small things. sometimes invisible taps crack us like porcelain. but it strikes me how easily the small things can seal us, too. how gracefully our daily universes can ease resentment

gold-washed sky

from our shoulders and replace it with something tender, hopeful, and just a little lighter.



GOD'S CANDY

Jarek Nalewak