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Cambria

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Author Bio

Brynn Hambley is a junior Theater Arts major with minors in Music and Writing. Theater was her first love, but writing is not too far behind, and she specifically enjoys writing poetry and personal essays. She would like to thank her family, friends, her amazing boyfriend Jared, and Poetry Circle for reading all her bad first drafts and dealing with her anxiety and tea-fueled ramblings.

Cambria

My family's blood is rooted in coal,
our fingers permanently blackened with ash
and the sounds of shots and bombs that shake
our sassafras legs, our electric, machine hearts.

I have never been the kind to drown myself in liquid fires,
burning a way to my soul through my throat,
so I watch my aunts take another swig,
watch them learn to breathe again
their laughter sharp as shrapnel.

They never learn the songs I sing
the ones that quiet the ringing world.
So when I part my lips, tongue to teeth
like two hands in prayer,
my grandfather stops their screeching games;
he clears the air for notes of new things,
his eyes reflecting the metal of submerged gunships
and wars I have only felt in words.