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Crossfire

Madison R. Sidle
Gettysburg College

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Crossfire

Author Bio

Madison Sidle is a senior at Gettysburg College. Her major is Political Science and her minor is Writing. She is from Owings Mills, Maryland and has wanted to be a published author since she was twelve.

Crossfire

MADISON R. SIDLE

I have done nothing wrong.

The thought blazes through my mind like lemon droplets on my tongue

and I wince knowing I will never get the apology I deserve.

She justifies her friendly fire with the same excuse

that I was holding the crimson cloth and she couldn't help but charge.

My body rolls to a stop in the cloud of sand

and I push myself up to get knocked down again,

maybe one day I will not bother to command my composure

and my legs will break so I can never stand.

She looks down at me and her acid words burn my thin skin,

creating pale splotches on my face that I will never let her see.

Pride and anxiety could be the title of my autobiography.

Would regret plague her heart if she read the words?

Maybe my mask of indifference is made of coal,

so I am the only one to blame for my burns.

But if I lower my shield of nervous laughter,

will the pillars of my sanity collapse into dust

and crush the spirit from my body?

Could I be myself if I revealed all I am to humanity

and left no secrets between my neurons and nerves?

I refuse to change.

Not for her or anyone else, because in my stone heart

I enjoy the person I have become.

And if a statue never erodes

wouldn't we call that a miracle?