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Skyline Drive

Madison R. Sidle
Gettysburg College

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Skyline Drive

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.

Skyline Drive

MADISON R. SIDLE

Could I transform my mother's minivan into Apollo's Chariot?
Her gray Honda Odyssey steered towards the summer sky.
Four wheels like four horses, charging up the winding roads,
dragging the sun across the horizon,
as I watch the golden light flood her rearview mirror.

If we turn at the wooden sign, could I touch the silver blanket of
clouds from the earth?
She pulls the car aside so we can disembark for a moment.
Only a moment,
to count the lopsided mountain tops
and feel wild winds as we stand at the edge of a cliff.

At our feet, a pair of monarch butterflies dance
while a broad-winged hawk circles above us.
We use our phones to freeze these scenes,
then walk back to the car and lower the windows,
further up these twisted roads we drive.
The next spectacle of mountains awaits our arrival.

Sure, the view may appear similar to what we just saw.
But do not doubt these giants of rock,
each unique in bumps and dips,
will steal your breath from your lungs.

We step out once more and observe America's beauty.
Rich green valleys, enclosed by darker forested hills,
watched by hundreds of widened eyes
belonging to visitors who drove for hours across the country
to capture their image at an elevation that pops their ears.

There is little solitude at these peaks.
Listen for the engines of motorcycles.
Watch fingers tap on the side of the cherry red convertible ahead of us.
Feel rage at the sight of wrappers and plastic cups scattered at the roots
of trees.
No, we are never alone.
Though I can see beauty in these people
as we watch the sunset spill soft oranges into the sky.
A man's arm wrapped around a woman's waist as they beam
like the blinding rays of the setting sun.