

TYGR: Student Art and Literary Magazine 2018-present

Volume 2023
Issue 1 *TYGR* 2023

Article 24

2023

Behind the backyard

Rachel Carter

Olivet Nazarene University, recarter@olivet.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.olivet.edu/tygr>



Part of the [Art and Design Commons](#), [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Carter, Rachel (2023) "Behind the backyard," *TYGR: Student Art and Literary Magazine 2018-present*: Vol. 2023: Iss. 1, Article 24.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.olivet.edu/tygr/vol2023/iss1/24>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Digital Commons @ Olivet. It has been accepted for inclusion in *TYGR: Student Art and Literary Magazine 2018-present* by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Olivet. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@olivet.edu.

Behind the backyard

The weed-filled patio sprouts up
after running down to the grass
where the dead meadow starts and ends.
It stalks and stirs—those standing sticks
which used to be tall grass in the summer
When it was still alive but on its deathbed
Fallen over itself, twigs tangled in a tomb
The trees are starting to stand alone
as the mowers and plowers take away
the sticks and dirt and grime in the summer
Even though it's still alive, even though it breathes
It was repulsive to the family—branching fingers
reaching out to uproot our patio.
But it was beautiful to me, all brown and prickled
Rotting in the winter, and taking raspy breaths
when spring returns as it sneezes dirt and dust.
Now it's flattened, no longer a reeded, short forest
tall for the mice and snakes within its stout trees.
Now it's just the trees and just the dirt.
At least we can see that hidden lake
and the train tracks on the other side.
It used to be hidden by our little mouse forest
Just a pasture now—once a prairie on its knees