

# New Poetry from Hannah Jane Weber: “My Childhood Smelled Like,” “Surprise Dawn”



FROSTED WITH MOONLIGHT / *image by Amalie Flynn*

## MY CHILDHOOD SMELLED LIKE

cabbage, salted tomatoes, and cracklings.  
the flume of dust I awakened when my fingers  
untangled the shag carpet's red mane.

crayons I melted against the wood stove,  
our terrier's feet, with that same scent of fire.

night crawlers, shad, algae, and lake,  
blanketing our boat after a morning of fishing.

Dad's scrapyards, fragrant with hot tar  
and smoke from his brown cigarettes,  
acres of rust and grease, a twisting maze  
leading to one abandoned refrigerator after another,  
each filled with jars and jars of ancient rot.

fireworks and muddy gravel roads,  
leadplant, elderberries, horsemint.

Grandma's lilac bushes,  
reeking of booze from the bar next door,  
their purple bunches lighting up the dark  
with neon liquor perfume.

## SURPRISE DAWN

rows of cedars push through slats of slain brothers  
dense boughs gushing berries  
frosted with moonlight

my bike light skims twilight from creamy sidewalks  
a premature dawn blaring from the flashing bulb  
illuminating the wind's fabric  
in rustling leaves

I lean far from the sweep of branches  
but my jacket catches the emerald froth  
and propels me into the flustered chatter of birds awakened  
and tossed about by my helmet's pillage of their feathered  
hearth