To Bear Arms (First prize, Peter Sears Prize in Poetry)

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To Bear Arms (First prize, Peter Sears Prize in Poetry)

Abstract
Winner of Peter Sears Poetry Prize

Keywords
Poetry
To Bear Arms

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Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Henry Hughes

# First prize, Peter Sears Prize in Poetry.

Keywords: Peter Sears Poetry Prize, poetry

Lightest olive,  
veiny, lean, muscular,  
not an ounce of anything  
that doesn’t spell hard labor.  
Thick, knotty purple scar  
lazing under his elbow like  
a drowsy purple caterpillar.  
V-shaped for violence,  
and the broken bottle that carved it.  
There are others—  
strange, bruise-like,  
tokens of methamphetamine  
or a life waged like war  
in the wooly outdoors.  
Each I kiss like fresh wounds,  
monuments etched to say:  
Look how much he knows.