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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.