

2023

## the smell of cigarettes reminds me of you

Nichole Drungo  
ndd0006@mix.wvu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/calliope>



Part of the [Art and Design Commons](#), and the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Drungo, Nichole (2023) "the smell of cigarettes reminds me of you," *Calliope*: Vol. 35, Article 13.  
Available at: <https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/calliope/vol35/iss1/13>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by The Research Repository @ WVU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Calliope by an authorized editor of The Research Repository @ WVU. For more information, please contact [researchrepository@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:researchrepository@mail.wvu.edu), [emily.fidelman@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:emily.fidelman@mail.wvu.edu).

# the smell of cigarettes reminds me of you

Nichole Drungo

exhale –

i sit motionless, dragging slowly  
on cheap cigarettes  
in a dreary motel room

inhale –

tendrils of smoke swam in circles,  
floating aimlessly, carelessly, lively  
within the frozen air, telling stories of  
of a lover I yearned to forget  
yet longed to see again

exhale –

nicotine lingers inside the puffs  
of smoke, sending warmth down my spine  
breathing fire into my frostbitten lungs  
though light peaks through the slits  
in the blinds, I am a captive  
in the frigid prison of my mind

inhale –

how many summers have I spent  
lost in the sea of freckles coating her body,  
I dove deep into her waters,  
enchanted by her sweet siren's song  
though, I wonder,  
how many times did I drown?

exhale –

a metallic taste clings to the insides of my  
cheeks, caressing every surface with a delicate  
touch. I can see the curvature of her lips with  
every stroke – touch was our only form of  
communication

inhale –

droplets of charred matter burn holes  
into the carpet while the smoke paints,  
aimlessly, carelessly, solemnly,  
a portrait of my lover in the frozen air