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Cigarette

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Cigarette

JUAN ANTONIO MIRANDA

A cigarette departs
her lips, a sigh whistles and
smoke coyly
curls into the
night's embrace.

As her chapped,
wanting lips
engulf the
butt, desire and
temptation shed
identity, mutating into
tangled fibers
suturing her thoughts.

Transmittable like a
smile, every breath
is an interplay
between choice
and guarantee,
between air
and tar, between
death and death.

Slowly, it evolves
into a thick
veil encompassing
her flesh, her
silhouette mirroring
blackened lungs
betwixt her sheltered
cage.

Each sigh
dissipates anxiety,
each drag cries
mortality, each
exhale mourns
fertility.

A cigarette is
lit, to the
final ash,
if not from
the open sores
of a heart, streaming
through every capillary,
navigating into
every vein, until an
outlet is discerned.
Through the ducts
of every eye, the
canals of every
nostril, and the
parted lips of
a muted maw.