

2018

Still Burning

Michaela Greer
Nova Southeastern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://nsuworks.nova.edu/digressions>



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

Recommended Citation

Greer, Michaela (2018) "Still Burning," *Digressions Literary Magazine*: Vol. 15 , Article 20.
Available at: <https://nsuworks.nova.edu/digressions/vol15/iss1/20>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the CAHSS Journals at NSUWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digressions Literary Magazine by an authorized editor of NSUWorks. For more information, please contact nsuworks@nova.edu.

Still Burning

He had a dream.

I had one too.

The sickly-sweet stench of burning flesh beckons reality

As pale knuckles clench wood and ivories press together,

Tears threaten the horizons of my eyes as I choke back

The urge to ask:

‘When will we stop burning?’

But, beauty is pain, right?

So, the iron brands my scalp and sears my mind;

And I try not to shake my head in disbelief,

But the words untangle and fall as quickly as naps disappear.

Will we always keep burning?

Conscious riddims rise,

Catching with the unspoken hidden in desperate hearts.

Yet, it’s the idle gossip that swirls into the melodies.

Manicured talons seize rungs abandoned by sisters
Too weary defending themselves against the weapon;
Sharper than any two-edged sword.

Meanwhile, husks stare back at men who're hardly recognizable,
Trying to convince themselves that they really do
Hold the secret to
Masculinity.
The pursuit of life, liberty and the elusive honeypot.

Ignoring sincere yearnings, we push the protests of our souls aside.
Instead, opting to demonstrate disapproval projected into a void,
Where no one ever sees your face.
Where voices sound more like the soft tapping of square keys.
Where we talk more about getting lit.
Where nothing ignites but the cycle of burning goes on.

He had a dream.
I have one too;
That the burning started even before his time
Will finally blaze a fire greater than me or you.