

## Who Buries the Raccoons

Nora McKee

John Carroll University, nmckee23@jcu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://collected.jcu.edu/jcr>



Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

McKee, Nora () "Who Buries the Raccoons," *The John Carroll Review*: Vol. 76: Iss. 1, Article 63.

Available at: <https://collected.jcu.edu/jcr/vol76/iss1/63>

This Poem is brought to you for free and open access by the Student at Carroll Collected. It has been accepted for inclusion in The John Carroll Review by an authorized editor of Carroll Collected. For more information, please contact [mchercourt@jcu.edu](mailto:mchercourt@jcu.edu).

## Who Buries the Raccoons?

Nora McKee

Does the top of the mountain get lonely?  
The sweet gray of gentrification welcomes me home  
With a hug that feels like needles  
Mixed with roses and their petals  
I wonder about my hair and how kindly it tangled with his  
I find it easier to be the least conscious  
about knowing I exist and can be seen  
So instead I stay behind the wall  
I trace my hands where I think his might land  
And I think of a time where my air was not polluted  
by the thought of his smooth skin sailing  
across my own, across the water  
that he threw dirt and rocks and mud into  
in order to make it seem deeper than I knew it to be  
So instead I try to cross new fingers  
and walk to the edge of the world all by myself  
I'll put in my headphones  
I'll try to not think  
about cigarettes and oceans or why  
We cry for dead cats but not raccoons.