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## I am from good love and every kind of cheese you can envision

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**Abstract**

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"I am from medical books about cancer, cats on the couches, and dogs in the family room."

**Cover Page Footnote**

"Third Prize Winner" Appeared in the issue: Volume 4, Issue 3, 2004.

## AMY BIANCHI

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### **I AM FROM GOOD LOVE AND EVERY KIND OF CHEESE YOU CAN ENVISION**

I am from medical books about cancer, cats on the couches, and dogs in the family room.

\*

I am from the Blessed Mother Mary, Jesus Christ our Lord, and the holy Catholic Church.

\*

I am from good love and every kind of cheese you can envision.

\*

I am from the colorful playground at Paddy Hill, the library up the rise, the flowers spread along the way, and the friendly Italian people around the bend.

\*

I am from the pine trees that encompass magical powers, a willow tree that I could read, imagine, and hide from view in. I am from my pink and purple ten-speed named Kenny that led me on many exploratory paths. I am from the neighborhood creek with dirt, bugs, hermit crabs, leaches, snapping turtles and snakes.

\*

I am from the Flynn's, the Gunther's, and the Bianchi's; masons, architects, and jewelers. I am from the Queen of Naples, Italy.

\*

I am from my mom's macaroni and cheese, my dad's early morning omelets, warm bagels and cream cheese, first rate strong smelling black coffee, no sugar no cream! I am from well done chicken and ziti with Italian spices, do not forget the mozzarella cheese!

\*

I am from the penny candy shop and Marilyn Schneider's dance class. I am from bows, barrettes, flowered dresses, crimped hair and perms. I am from stretch pants, a clubbed thumb, and uncanny elbows.

\*

I am from my gay uncles with lengthy nails and awesome hair, riding in their black Camero made me feel like I was from Tina Turner. I was from somewhere where no one could touch me or harm me in any way, manner, or form.

\*

I am from good love and deep devotion. I am from beautiful people, my parents. I am open-minded and beautiful because of my past days and years. I will continue to shine on because of where I am from.

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