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She Tried To Draw Him

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

"Once I found my sister's drawing. It was a man; her dream man. I was rifling through her dresser drawers. I don't remember what I was looking for. Maybe money. Maybe matches. Maybe an ID to use to buy cigarettes at the corner store."

Cover Page Footnote
SHE TRIED TO DRAW HIM

BY AUDRA CONWAY

Once I found my sister's drawing. It was a man; her dream man. I was rifling through her dresser drawers. I don't remember what I was looking for. Maybe money. Maybe matches. Maybe an ID to use to buy cigarettes at the corner store.

I unfolded the paper. Written inside, adjectives. Adjectives of the best kind—the aspects and characteristics of this imaginary and idealistic man. "She tried to draw him," I announced matter-of-factly to my friend Alyssa. We looked at each other. We laughed. Then our eyes met, and in understanding, I folded the paper back up and replaced it. I nudged the stained pine drawer shut as I heard gravel crunching under car tires. I could faintly hear Phish playing from the '89 Volkswagen Jetta floating through my sister's opened bedroom window. We retreated as the sound of my sister's shoes being kicked off rose from the kitchen up through the staircase.

I closed the door softly, leaving the scent of patchouli and rose oil on the other side of the nineteenth century door. We understood—the older sister—smart, talented and mysterious, drawing her dream man, and placing him safely away in her dresser drawer—an intimacy the "little sister" came to understand, should not have been violated.