

Growing Up

Gabby Park

Once,
I ran to the edge of my yard,
Past the broken-down fence,
And the rotting trees,
Near the highway, where pollution bled into the ground.

I danced in the sludge, and I built myself a palace.
It was snow and rocks and sticks.
In the center was my rock—one I pulled into place,
Just barely big enough to sit on.

I sat and watched the cars go by, and
I sat and watched time tick by, and
I sat and watched the birds fly.
I watched my walls melt into water,
Seeping back into the dirt.

My castle hit midnight and my carriage
Of sticks and snow came tumbling down.
I slipped off the rock into the mud below.

Park | *Floodwall*

I heard my name and ran back for dinner,
And I never went there again.

Gabby Park is a senior at UND working on her bachelor's in English, with a certificate in creative writing and a certificate in writing, editing, and publishing. She is currently vice president of the Adelphi Literary Society. Gabby loves books and is enjoying the hard work of filling her many bookshelves. She enjoys making things or doing anything creative; currently, she is creating a video game of her own with her friends. She is excited to soon graduate and join the world of editing and publishing.