

MINING FOR MENTHOL

A POEM INSPIRED BY SANDRA CISNEROS' "VINO TINTO"

WRITTEN BY BIZ OPIE

Cigarettes remind me of you.
The menthol cloud
mushrooms its way in my mouth
and up my nose to give my brain
a handshake before billowing
out my ears its nicotine thoughts,
an internal fight gone unfought.

Those nights we spent by the fire
not a drag left untouched
by your charcoaled lungs.
There is such grace in your
domino smoking demise, like
a lighter-led ballet that my
pink insides stumble, cough
and wheeze to imitate.

Something you spoke, breathed,
it's what I wrote. My poems
cloud, unfiltered, with those
conversations where we learned
more about ourselves
than we did about each other.
Only to leave me stale breath
and even more bitter words.

Elizabeth Opie is a senior in English. The Des Moines native spent some time in Colorado before coming back to ISU. She loves English because she loves to write.