

---

## Friday Night Out

Clear, cold, ice cubes clinked against the sides of a thick glass  
magnifying a lonely slice of green lime.  
She pursed her scarlet lips and raised the glass so a thin  
double-barreled straw slipped between them  
and silently sucked in the potent liquid.  
Two eyes, lined meticulously with black and brushed lashes  
flashed a deep brown light with the prospect  
or probability of trouble,  
The ends of her wheat hair slightly split  
and sprayed tousled about a face  
that wore expressions as casually as an old sweater.  
Waiting restless, but in full knowledge  
it was just another Friday night  
in a stale bar, like a snuffed out cigarette butt.

*Renee Kristine Nicholson*

### 385

have you ever stood by a doorway a secret portal trying to decide  
how to put your first foot forward wondering if you should  
contemplating your life to come to an only decision of life you  
missed me by a mile i missed you by a smile we caressed our  
beings in the sensation of love only to find that it wasn't truly  
there only a mirage of my thirsty soul longing for the taste of  
your salty blood to run through my child's veins to see him  
skipping holding your hand as i would have once to see you raise  
his giggling body high above your head spinning around in  
circles spinning spinning past me in the delusion that i created for  
myself to make my soul feel more compassionate towards this  
life i stand in your doorway waiting for my body to make its first  
move to new life to new freedom, you missed me smile you  
missed my last lonely mile

*Jessica Harris*