Excerpt from the American Heritage Thesaurus of Smells

Kathleen Balma

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Abstract
A collection of five fragrances and their "synonyms" and "antonyms."

Keywords
scents, thesaurus, wet pavement, copper, mildew, insect repellant, salt
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by Kathleen Balma

wet pavement – *synonyms*: a shuffled stack of singles, a pear, the tornado-safe corner of a basement. *antonyms*: rubber signature stamps, distilled regret, thin burnt white buttered toast.

copper – *synonyms*: a fat tampon, strep throat. *antonyms*: unsmearable lipstick, ferrets.

mildew – *synonyms*: carbonated water, the day before frost, sidewalk hopscotch chalk, that luxurious raincoat called home. *antonyms*: eucalyptus, tiger balm, a mint plant doused in cat piss, a row of ashtrays by the sink.


salt – *synonyms*: dead fresh water fish on a sleek river bank, milk that aspires to be cheese, the cusp between the body and arm commonly known as pit. *antonyms*: a naked margarita, a first or last date, a lint-covered lidless cherry chap stick.

KATHLEEN BALMA is a Fulbright Fellow and graduate of Indiana University’s MFA program. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in...
various publications, including Crab Orchard Review, Mid-American Review, storySouth, Puerto del Sol, Suss, and The 2River View. She currently resides in Connecticut.