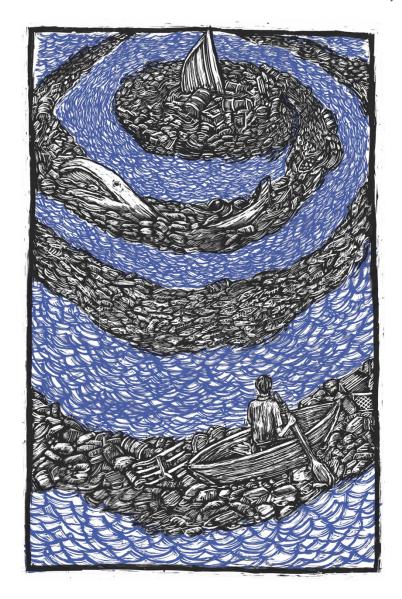
RADICAL TEACHER

A SOCIALIST. FEMINIST. AND ANTI-RACIST JOURNAL ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING

Poetry

Headed North

by Amber Moore



"OCEAN DEATH SPIRAL" BY ERIK RUIN VIA JUST SEEDS OPEN ACCESS GRAPHICS COLLECTION

Headed North

We left Tennessee. It had to happen anyway but this would have confirmed it otherwise.

It's sweet-smelling -like the land is baking something tender,
with a light syrup and flaky salt.
It's almost so pleasant that you forget
The rot that
halts us, jams us, makes us sore
and panicky,
crawling off to be elsewhere.

I think about it alot; what would have happened if we stayed?

A likely flight home, booked in a frenzy. Or a brutal drive, masked with mounting terror but gratitude too for having this escape hatch to blast me north. To cold, to quiet, to quick and warm hands, unquestioning.

Where being less is so often more, and so often exactly what we need.

I haven't been back, though I miss the loud fervor and the man who sang, "I'll always, always want it all" because me too, yes. Please.

Amber Moore is an Assistant Professor of Teaching with the Department of Language and Literacy Education at The University of British Columbia. Her research interests include: adolescent literacies; arts-based research; English education; feminist pedagogies; teacher and teacher librarian education; rape culture; and representations of youth in popular culture and YA literature. Her scholarship can be found across a number of publications such as *English Journal, Feminist Media Studies, Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, and *New Review of Children's Literature and Librarianship*.



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