

---

2020

## nonbinary

Camille Marshall

Western Michigan University, [camille.a.marshall@wmich.edu](mailto:camille.a.marshall@wmich.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/laureate>

---

### Recommended Citation

Marshall, Camille (2020) "nonbinary," *The Laureate*: Vol. 19 , Article 27.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/laureate/vol19/iss1/27>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Lee Honors College at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Laureate by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact [wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu](mailto:wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu).

## nonbinary

CAMILLE MARSHALL

you cut your hair in the bathroom sink  
because Dysphoria said so,  
because your mother said  
“Don’t cut your hair shorter,  
You’ll look like a lesbian.”  
and you’ve liked girls before, but  
you never really thought of yourself as  
a girl who likes girls.  
and what the hell is gender anyway?  
it’s not pink or blue,  
long hair or short hair,  
makeup or no makeup  
it’s not a Cosmo quiz you fill out  
“Are You a Boy or a Girl?”  
because you’re not as simple as  
Mostly B’s and C’s or as Boy or Girl.  
you are not a girl.  
you’re something else,  
something different but alike  
because when people look at you  
they see skirts and makeup and pink –  
girl skirts and girl makeup and girl pink.  
you are not a girl.  
you’re kinetic energy,  
the first spark to a flame  
that reaches through the night  
touches my tired eyes and brings me warmth.  
you are not a girl. you are a star,  
not a star in the night sky,  
because the stars we see are dead and you are  
so alive, you are waiting to be seen and felt  
and understood: a newborn star,  
brighter and warmer than the sun.