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# Oklahoma.....Out of Ashes

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## Oklahoma..... Out of Ashes

A bag of peppermints  
sits anchored to the corner of my desk  
A sea of papers  
scattered--Oklahoma Out of Ashes, marie claire, introduction to biology, ecosystems, and  
Bright cloth fish  
swim over and about drifting and changing with the  
tides of homework  
contest deadlines, and the occasional need to condemn the chaos of my room.  
I wait, slouching uncomfortably on the bed  
I wait for a voice to rise above the incessant talking by a box  
"6:50 and cloudy; fifty degrees; chance of rainstorms"  
on my bedside table. Waiting for a  
voice to rise from within  
to purge myself of sleepiness and depression.  
Rise in the morning, all the while thinking  
"when that 6 year old boy is 16  
will he struggle  
every morning, forced to reckon with the memory of a baby dead by his hands. How  
much  
therapy or will  
he join the ranks of the dead to make peace  
with his conscience  
before  
then.

*Nicole Slaughter*