

2020

Before Leaving

Amber Adams

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.uab.edu/bpr>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#), and the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Adams, Amber (2020) "Before Leaving," *Birmingham Poetry Review*: Vol. 47, Article 15.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.library.uab.edu/bpr/vol47/iss2020/15>

This content has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of the UAB Digital Commons, and is provided as a free open access item. All inquiries regarding this item or the UAB Digital Commons should be directed to the [UAB Libraries Office of Scholarly Communication](#).

Amber Adams

Before Leaving

From the watercolor of memory—that morning
at Hanging Lake—pulled from that dark reasoning
to awakesness by the shivers of the trees and shifts
of our tent, the aspen leaves changing to rich orange-yellow
as their roots crawled through acres of mountains
interweaving underneath, the touch of gentle hands.
How do moments exist past their making?
In the imperceptible outlines of sight we felt
for each other and our lives rippled out—
of explosions happening on two-week leaves
grown from the spent casings of this war,
with gunmetal knowledge replacing language with
field manuals and empty acronyms
of OIF blurring into OEF and the cyclone
of war constantly enduring while losing
distinction in one great fog around us.
I lay my head down—on the pillow
of your handgun always safe and at the ready.