

Wilderness House Literary Review 14/4

Mir-Yashar Seyedbagheri
Smoking Tears

NICK AND HIS OLDER SISTER NANCY smoke a joint at Mother's grave. She was run down by a train, a year before. They don't talk, but smoke. They laugh at the world exaggerated, heads and tombstones too large, out of place. They envision Mother smoking with them. Laughter falters a little, truths infiltrating the smoke: No more Mother in lavender, singing Cole Porter tunes, fostering Nick's writing, Nancy's acting.

They laugh, unable to talk of the train that ran Mother down. The moment of impact. They weep, trying to form the words, unable, holding each other, drowning in tears and smoke.