

Where I'm From

I am from here and where
Where my parents took me and
Here I took myself.

I am from cornbread
Smathered in butter and
Crumbled into milk.

I come from libraries,
Where mind leads
Down paths that only I follow
From poems, from quotes, from self-help books
That mark and clutter the way.

I come from a journal,
Speaking to me from then and
Telling me about now.

I come from a song
That I can't remember one day and
Sing all day the next.

There's a box of me in the basement
Dots, commas, exclamation and question marks of my life
Pictures of smiles and family and dogs and long ago friends
Fearing the fire and being gone.

I run from pursuits and embrace collisions
But stand still where I am
As all hurdles go by.

I come from there and where
But stand here myself.

--JC Morgan, Cold Spring, Campbell County, Kentucky

Where I'm From

By Alison Morgan, Cold Spring, Campbell County, Kentucky

I am from the south
A small town wandering across the bluegrass
I am from two parts of a whole, with a twin defining my separateness
I am from porch swings and bicycles
And memories of balls bouncing in the backyard
I am from lemonade and Oreos and cigarette smoke clinging to everything

I didn't know to mind that back then

I am from books, and I walked a path through Narnia with Nancy Drew and
Charlie Bucket and Trixie Belden
Later, I would be from Hogwarts
I am from board games and the record player and songs on 45
I am from a dark theater, watching Snow White
Which really means I am from a life spent seeing my father every other weekend

I wish I could see my father every other weekend

I am from Brushy Fork Creek and Elm Street and a college town
I loved playing in that creek
I am from first days of school and nerves and new clothes
I am from drumsticks and marching band and a first kiss and a best friend
I am from real Christmas trees and that silver tinsel that got onto everything
And now I am from a tree called Stella and no tinsel

The dogs will eat that stuff, you know

I am from distant cities that called to me and then made me feel lonely
I am from travels and studies and work and people that led me away
I am from the families I came back to: the one I lived in as a child and the one I live in as a parent
(It's really just one family)
I am from the new twins who define my separateness in a whole new way
I am creating where they are from

I hope their place shines with starlight and lemon drops and love like mine does