

The Anthology

Volume 2015

Article 13

May 2015

From Anonymous to Identifiable

Alicia Tosca

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Recommended Citation

Tosca, Alicia (2015) "From Anonymous to Identifiable," *The Anthology*: Vol. 2015, Article 13. Available at: https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/anthology/vol2015/iss1/13

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From Anonymous to Identifiable

Alicia Tosca

Knees scraped along bark as the lion tree sucked me into its embrace. My mother hated that I climbed trees.

My mother hated that I climbed trees with the neighborhood boys.

The sun stirred in the sky, clouds melted apart, and there was fishing there was biking there was climbing—and lots of it there was fighting and, of course, too much pretending.

The sun followed me,

spinning webs of time

that clung to my bones and to my skin.
Puberty crept in
and with it came my curls—my genetically re-enforced femininity.
A new wardrobe, a new set of friends, refined behaviors.
Goodbye, hats.

Hello, headbands! No longer looking but looked at, baptized in my own hormones, I stand now on the roots of the trees that no longer suck me in.

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