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## Gritty Residue

Justin Short

Kevin Parkhurst

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**Photo by Kevin Parkhurst**

**Gritty Residue**

**Justin Short**

**What are these negatives that are burned onto my soul**

**They haunt and write and dissolve so slow**

**They are memories**

**From times ago**

**The beasts on tracks they trudge through the sand**

**The sharp chop of the blades I can no longer stand**

**The bombs bursting in air, only Hells fury could compare**

**The blood of the innocent I can no longer bear**

**With sharp lines of tragedy**

**And blurred images of home**

**Innocence is my agony**

**This froth turns to foam**

**Why won't this scab heal**

**The VA gives me candy to help me deal**

**My mind wonders if it was all in vain**

**Why didn't I ride on that long black train**

**Death and I, we go way back**

**Back to Nebraska street, before Iraq**

**He is swift even when he is slow**

**Our names are all tattooed on his soul**

**he's called me by my name, and I have his**

**Through the death of Brothers Freedom Lives**

**Surrounded by sand**

**Surrounded by time**

**Surrounded by images**

**They are mine**

**Semper Fi**