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My Town

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My Town *by Paula Jones*

This is my town
sweet tarnished streets

I walk her veins
down darkened paths

Where I seek
girls underdressing

Talking on their
fleshy phones

See how mother
smokes a cigarette

Forgets to latch
the flimsy screen

Watch how father's
small eyes close

In front of the
early evening news

He doesn't hear
the stern warnings

Lock up your daughters
wrap up your wives

This is my town
and I am alive

Paula Jones is a Western Australian poet living in the Hills near Perth.