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The Moth Effect

Kylie Smith

Utah State University

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THE MOTH EFFECT

by

Kylie Smith

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree

of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

in

English

Approved:

Michael Sowder, Ph.D.
Major Professor

Benjamin Gunsberg, Ph.D.
Committee Member

John McLaughlin, Ph.D.
Committee Member

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Logan, Utah

2022

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ABSTRACT

The Moth Effect

by

Kylie Smith, Master of Science

Utah State University, 2022

Major Professor: Dr. Michael Sowder
Department: English

This thesis is the start of what I envision to be a full-length memoir. I address multiple themes, specifically family and generational trauma and mental illness. I explore these themes non-linearly, through personal narrative, scientific research, and scene recreations. I begin with an introduction and then move into an essay that explores an encounter I had with my sister. Throughout the essay, I move in and out of this meeting, weaving the encounter together with my own struggles with mental health, research about the Peppered moth species, and scene recreations from the lives of other women in my family. Through each of these subjects, the deeper theme of generational trauma is explored.

(32 pages)

PUBLIC ABSTRACT

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Kylie Smith, Master of Science

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This thesis is the start of what I envision to be a full-length memoir. I address multiple themes, specifically family and generational trauma and mental illness. I explore these themes non-linearly, through personal narrative, scientific research, and scene recreations. I begin with an introduction and then move into an essay that explores an encounter I had with my sister.. Throughout the essay, I move in and out of this meeting, weaving the encounter together with my own struggles with mental health, research about the Peppered moth species, and scene recreations from the lives of other women in my family. Through each of these subjects, the deeper theme of generational trauma is explored.

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