

1993

Under Your Influence

Katherine Campo
Denison University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Campo, Katherine (1993) "Under Your Influence," *Exile*: Vol. 40 : No. 2 , Article 43.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile/vol40/iss2/43>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the English at Denison Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Exile by an authorized editor of Denison Digital Commons.

Under Your Influence

Standing under the old porch light
Our silhouettes and gestures
Showed tensions as
Sharp words broke the precious silence
We made sure the neighbors heard.

You walked away
I walked inside
I heard the rev of your engine
Peeking from behind the curtains
Hoping. . . not to see your tail lights drive away.

Same old thing,
Feel my eyes begin to cry
I lay alone in my bedroom
And let the tears soak my pillowcase
And I know the neighbors heard.

It's not as easy as it seems
More than a high school crush
Your ring burns hot around my finger
I try to squeeze all meaning from it-
I just wish you hadn't gone

But then, the silence is broken, once again
Smelling burning rubber and gasoline
A cloud of dust rises from the gravel driveway
Hope. . . Happiness. . .
The door swings wide open
The smell of Tennessee Whiskey
Hanging like that same cloud
I see the rage
I feel the anger in your eyes
I scream
God, I wish the neighbors could hear.

– Katherine Anne Campo '94