Two Poems: ‘They called her a methhead’, Mining for Copper’

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They called her a methhead

but I’ll tell you what
that girl worked her ass off
down there at the Mini Mart
and I can attest to that

the coffee pot was always full
the nachos never ran out on her shift
one time
I kid you not
I saw her down on her hands and knees
scrubbing the tile floor
with a rag and a toothbrush

that woman could restock the cigarettes
while blindfolded

every morning
when I pulled into the parking lot
after my night shift
she’d have my Skoal and my paper
right on the counter
waiting for me

Now I don’t know exactly what happened
with her cash drawer
that’s between her
and the management
all I know is
I’ve been coming to this place for twenty years
and she was the only one
who ever knew my powerball numbers
by heart

I’ll never forget the last time I saw her
right before they let her go
four in the morning
no gloves
no coat
just knocking ice
off the awning with her
bare hands

the obit was just two lines
and it didn’t say nothing about all that

**Mining for Copper**

Two miners dig through the trash
scavenging what’s left of a dead town

Got to find something good tonight
electric bill overdue

Got to get something better
than cans and bottles,

a Barbie for the little one,
a lamp with a busted shade,

Got to get something good tonight.
The best stuff is always in front of the blue house,

the garbage truck in the distance,
He tosses aside a banana peel, some wet leaves,

the garbage truck in the distance,
throws the old Magnavox into the shopping cart.

They’ll bust that sucker open tonight,
copper should be worth a few bucks at least.

A hand inside the blue house
lowers the blinds.

**Author Bio**

_Jodie Childers_ is a writer and documentary filmmaker whose creative work explores the psychology of class hegemony. Her poetry has been published in the *Portland Review, Eleven Eleven, Feral Feminisms* and the volume *Appalachian Reckoning: A Region Responds to Hillbilly Elegy*. She has also published articles on 20th century American political dissent and is currently completing a documentary feature about Pete Seeger’s environmental legacy. Video work from this project has been featured in _The Woody Guthrie Annual_ and _In These Times._