Clarity

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Recommended Citation
Davis, Allison (2014) "Clarity," CutBank: Vol. 1 : Iss. 80 , Article 32.
Available at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss80/32
"You know the one about your father and Channel 33?" I'm nineteen, I shake my head. "Okay, so thirty years ago, VCR's got big and adult videos came out. We got the A/B switches—you've seen them in the rooms—B for cable and A for the porn that loops every couple of hours. The hotel up the road got them—it's business, what can you do? All right—so 33 comes into the office and says they want to do an interview. It was just a reporter, a cameraman, and your father." My uncle focuses as if he's reciting a prayer to the key rack. The phone rings. He writes a name on a scrap of paper, jabs it through a key hook, hangs up and says "So the reporter asks your father, 'Do you get complaints about the videos?' Your father rubs his beard—he's nervous—looks into the camera and says, 'Yes—sometimes customers call the office and complain that the picture isn't clear enough.'"