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## I Don't Need to Breathe

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# I Don't Need To Breathe

*Kristin Rothell*

It suffocates.

It destroys.

It consumes.

It hurts.

Blood red on bone white,

Scorched skin on fragile frame,

Everything gone, gone in a

Split

Second.

*I can't breathe.*

It grows.

It learns.

It breathes.

It lives.

Blistering heat blackens uncovered skin,

Pain a distant thought until adrenaline fades,

Everything alight in

Dancing

Shadows.

*I can't breathe.*

It invades.

It spreads.

It overruns.

It kills.

Breath overcome by pain,

Blessed air no longer sweet,

The dark of oblivion beckoning—

So

Close.

*I can't breathe.*

It hurts.

It lives.

It kills.

It's here.

I feel it in my lungs, stinging in my eyes,

My legs burn with every stuttering step,

My very self is being consumed.

Slowly.

Deliberately.

*I can't breathe.*

I no longer have to.