

# 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*.