

Nickel Girls

Holly Welker

Sometimes boys would stand
on the high school stairs
and throw nickels at girls
in low-cut blouses, hoping
the nickels would lodge
somewhere. They never
dropped nickels on me, and
though my mother liked it
that way, I think it might
have been nice to be a
nickel girl. I don't know
why the inability to trap
coins in an area of my
person compelled me to keep
straight A's, why that made
it logical that my hair
remain short, why it hurt
just a little when my mother
came home each day from work
and thanked me for cooking
dinner, hugging me and saying
how delicious I smelled.

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