

First Time

The boys face each other as if in a stand-off, the good-looking one pinching his nose to staunch the outpouring of blood, the fat one's white-knuckled fists ready to strike another blow. A crowd has gathered to watch. The fat boy launches, a flailing windmill of fingernails, crippling the other boy to the ground, slashing at his face like a cat. Only yesterday they were best friends, until the fat boy invited the other to his room and stripped naked except for his socks, begging the good-looking boy to do the same. Now, clawing that perfect face of the god-like body laid out on the blacktop, the fat boy wants to scream out his love. But he can only say it with his hands.