

Lilith Provides the Password to the Speakeasy
Skyla Allen

It rolls off her lips seamlessly
Ruby, ruby, crimson red
Like the smoldering tips
Of cigars and cigarettes

Glowing embers suspended
Inhale and burn brighter
Stars twinkling in the dark
Bar basement full of liars

She is coiled in the corner
Finger waves and batting lashes
Smoke weaves in and out
Of the suffocated masses

Hidden away and kept a secret
As the world above searches
For those poor, lost souls
With a hushed and shaken spirit

A little here and there
Is how they say it begins
But when the power is threatened
They claim it as sin

Skyla Allen (they/she) is an artist and writer based in southern Indiana. Their passions lie in the in-between spaces of genres and are often explored in her writing. They have recently graduated with their M.A. in creative writing and have had their work published in *Allusions* magazine.