

# Diamond Line Undergraduate Literary Magazine

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Volume 1 | Issue 7

Article 7

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May 2023

## Boiled Jam

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### Recommended Citation

Malloy, Arden (2023) "Boiled Jam," *Diamond Line Undergraduate Literary Magazine*: Vol. 1: Iss. 7, Article 7. Available at: <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/diamondlinelitmag/vol1/iss7/7>

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# Boiled Jam

Arden Malloy

*Poetry*

I wasn't careful.

The medley of fruits (blackberry / raspberry / strawberry / blueberry),  
entwined with sugar  
attacked me  
as it was liquefying  
in the small pot beneath my hands.

It scalded me,  
left a white dot  
the size of a snowflake  
on the soft flesh of my pinky finger,  
a bone-deep burn that lasted all night.

And now, the punchline:

The boiled jam didn't even make it to the fridge,  
Only to the tile floor.  
The plastic container  
sodden with heat, splintered  
under my hands  
puddles of dark purple  
oozed over the grout,

Seeds sprayed across the white cabinets  
like the goriest crime scene  
never caught on screens.

The only victim:  
My pride.