



1-1-2016

On Writing

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Recommended Citation

Pham, Ashley (2016) "On Writing," *Calliope*: Vol. 47 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/calliope/vol47/iss1/9>

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ON WRITING

ASHLEY PHAM

They told me not to write.
"More experience"
"Too young"
"Don't write—yet"
So I threw myself:
Into cars, going too fast for their own good
Into parties, place to place, no address
Into relationships, both shallow and sure
Into circles, that never started but seemed to end
Into a plethora of experiences
None, for me.
They told me not to write.
But here I am,
Spilling ink
Spilling me
This is all I haven't lost.
This is all that is left.
And they told me not to write.