Arm’s Length
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He keeps the last pack he ever bought in the freezer. For nineteen years, through three moves across two states. He can still feel the ache of desire, pictures in his mind the lighter in his hand, the cradle he would make with his lips. It’s his way of marking each night and yet acknowledging that the mariner tries to be aware of the shore at least as much or more than he wants deep waters beneath the hull.

Of our past, what do we trust? There are parts of ourselves we keep at arm’s length, if only just.

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