



2021

## Ode to the First Garden Tomato

Leah Hanley

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### Recommended Citation

Hanley, Leah (2021) "Ode to the First Garden Tomato," *Floodwall Magazine*: Vol. 2 : Iss. 2 , Article 21.  
Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/floodwall-magazine/vol2/iss2/21>

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# Ode to the First Garden Tomato

Pass through the garden  
Red glimmer in your eye  
A plump tomato  
    sags precariously on a limpid vine  
Reach out to pat its bottom

Swoon as it rolls into your palm instead  
    claiming you  
Brush the dust from its taut skin  
Bring it to your nose with a thrill  
Take your first long,  
    deep    breath  
    of a thousand summer memories

## About Leah Hanley

Leah Hanley is currently a graduate student in the M.A. English program at the University of North Dakota. She is an Air Force veteran, a private pilot, and a graduate teaching assistant of English Composition. In her free time she enjoys cross-stitching, cooking, puzzles, reading, traveling, and playing board games with family.