

## CONSUMED

AY Dorsey

Every night Megan ran through the dirty streets to the park and dashed past people hurrying into their houses and through fog and smoke and across black pavement and stiff grass until she reached the hill and she ran up and up and up until her breath came in tearing gasps and when she reached the top of the hill she lay back and looked into the choked sky and breathed the gray air and she imagined there were stars above her like the old stories told and thought about what her grandmother whispered to her once about her great aunt being lifted up in the night and Megan called to the stars hoping to entice them down to her hill beneath the tall buildings.

On the night she turned thirteen they came.

Megan watched rich velvet split the smog and saw the stars peek through and she heard them sing to her in a high tone like a flute far away and the crack widened and the stars began to circle and consume the clouds and the tall buildings and the houses as they spun lower and lower and finally they reached the base of her hill and whirled around it until the earth fell away in shreds and there was nothing left but Megan and the stars and they pierced her with a billion arrows of light and carried her away in their glistening points and the empty husk she left behind did not look up but instead glanced fearfully over its shoulder as it scurried down the hill back to the dark city never to return.