



6-15-2007

Life-Form Under the Overpass

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Recommended Citation

Ballard, Barry (2007) "Life-Form Under the Overpass," *Westview*: Vol. 26 : Iss. 1 , Article 22.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol26/iss1/22>

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Life-Form Under the Overpass

by Barry Ballard

One brings little to the steady muzzled
hum of the environment. Even distant
visitors who have fallen through the prism
of our sky barely engage us. Their bodies
singed, clothing shredded, language exhaled
like gibberish from disoriented
minds. They hold out their hands like a curled limb
of planets from an unknown galaxy:

A life-form trapped in the dense nebula
of our pauses and turns, hiding from our
Sun in the shadows of gravity and dying
from their inability to acclimate.
And the debris of their journey scattered like lost
art, each shard of broken glass—glowing like stars.

