

3-27-2019

City Gym, 10am

Kateri Whitfield

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Recommended Citation

Whitfield, Kateri (2019) "City Gym, 10am," *Forces*: Vol. 2019 , Article 20.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.collin.edu/forces/vol2019/iss1/20>

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Downtown Dallas Blue Buildings Kaitlyn Kitchen

City Gym, 10 am

Kateri Whitfield

Twin kittens bit me
in the city gym parking lot.
Their elderly owner walked beside me
on the treadmill, slowly in street clothes,
drinking his morning coffee.
Money felt strange to his and my hands.
I let my hands burn sick.

He gave his to the cats.
The television played silent subtitles
with updates on the wildfire &
public grief as a recent widower
recalled a last phone call.
"I love you, come get me."
"Grandpa, come get me"
I ran, eyes closed, ran stationary.
The kitten-owner drank his coffee.