

## ABSTRACT

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Title: Can We Pretend This Never Happened?  
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My creative thesis is a collection of four standalone stories that deal with themes such as substance abuse, addiction, and familial and romantic relationships. The craft of storytelling is multifaceted; for this project I included photography to accompany the single memoir piece at the end of the collection. Art is a timeless source of magic and stories have the capacity to transcend our reality, but it can also ground us in the truth that life is often stranger than fiction. I draw inspiration from my real-life experiences because I am constantly in awe of our interconnectedness, our capacity to heal, and our spiritual, and psychological evolution. In this collection I explore the empowerment for young women concerning sexuality and the complexities of trauma. I delve into unconventional relationships between family and the struggle for connection.