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## Rugged

Rugged is denial,  
the blind acceptance of society's standards,  
and the suppression of your desires.

Rugged is difficult,  
like the struggles that have and will be faced in this uphill battle,  
and the ridicule that has and will be cast because we're not the norm.

Rugged is acceptance,  
no longer fearing waking up beside a member of the same sex,  
and holding your hand in public without feeling ashamed.

Rugged is beautiful,  
like the unshaved face of a future lover,  
and the imprint left in the sheets after a night of passion.

Geoffrey Whaley