The Bell Tower

Rumor is you walk underneath
Shafter Bell Tower at night you won't
graduate in four years. I know some people
who go out of their way avoiding it. No
one told me until I was standing in the
center, looking up the tall columns at the
underside of the bell tower. I'm not very
superstitious, but I do feel a different
aura when underneath that tower. Laying
on the cold ground in star formation, our
heads dead center, my friends and I like
to stare up at the impressive tower. The
cool night air clears our thoughts and lifts
up our minds. That's where all of our deep
thoughts take place, under the Bell tower at
night. Our bodies fall into a dreamy state,
our walls tumble down, and for those few
precious moments we feel hopeful. Everything
we've dreamed of is right there in our
sights. An unusual happiness fills us up
inside and doesn't leave. When I see Shafter
Tower, I don't ignore it and I don't avoid it.
I find myself drawn to it; to all the
emotions that the simple architecture holds.
I think I'm going to change the traditions. I'm going to tell people that the Tower isn't unlucky like everyone says. In retrospect, I'd even say that it's the opposite. Laying under the tower in the dark with my friends is my favorite thing I've done since coming here. Lie under the tower. Stare up at the white brick suspended above you. Close your eyes and feel at home. It is lucky.

Maybe I'm not the only one. Maybe others have felt this sort of infinity. Maybe that's where the superstitions come from. "Laying there is too special to share with others. Let's tell them it's unlucky." Perhaps that's part of the emotion, knowing the risk you are taking by being there. I bet that's part of the magic; only those who are willing to risk their four years of college can feel it. Maybe I won't tell others. Maybe I'll keep the secret to myself and bring only the best and the brightest to lie with me under the tower. Shafer bell tower is not unlucky, it's far from it. It's where I realized my drive, my goals for life, and it's where I like to lie.