

2018

## Parts and Wholes

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### Recommended Citation

Keisman, Molly (2018) "Parts and Wholes," *Exile*: Vol. 64: No. 1, Article 24.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile/vol64/iss1/24>

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In subway cars packed so tightly  
that people were one body of matter,  
we barreled through infinite black tunnels,

and here, in self-imposed limbo,  
mom devised the word game  
and I investigated her sentences  
as the car tipped from side to side.

"The man bought a red apple at the supermarket."  
Elbows in my face and the whirl  
of concurrent conversations faded  
and I only noticed  
noun, verb, adjective.  
I picked them off one by one until  
the sentence was a skeleton  
and the train rattled and shook like a seizure,

And as the body of matter swayed in a perfect wave,  
I searched her eyes as she listened to my answers.  
My hip bumped against her leg,  
And the gap between us widened and narrowed.