

1998

Choosing Mums

Katie Kroner
Denison University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kroner, Katie (1998) "Choosing Mums," *Exile*: Vol. 45 : No. 1 , Article 24.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile/vol45/iss1/24>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the English at Denison Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Exile by an authorized editor of Denison Digital Commons.

Choosing Mums

The trees are dying.
Not the fall to winter settling of leaves,
but a harried death in the grip of insect webs,
branches bare before the waning of the harvest moon.

From mums,
like a patch of fire on dry grass,
I choose the yellow eyed
to crown my daughter's hair,
brush from her shoulder
silver strands of fallen webs,
and stand between her
and the dying flowers.

She sees
and tells me their centers
are like questions, a quick breath
or tears in an empty bedroom.

As the sun sets tonight,
in the moonlight through bare branches,
I will dry the flowers my child has worn
to be saved against the disappearance of the trees.

—Katie Kroner '01