

1986

Together, Bathing

Karen J. Hall
Denison University

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



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hall, Karen J. (1986) "Together, Bathing," *Exile*: Vol. 33 : No. 1 , Article 4.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile/vol33/iss1/4>

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.

Together, Bathing

I look at you now, a child
but five years old, silently
watching me bathe you.
I think of the girl
who birthed you five years ago.
She wanted to keep you,
wanted to bathe you as I am now,
wanted to protect you,
wanted to love you enough
to make you love her.

You watch me, wide-eyed,
wash first my arm, then your arm,
my breast, then your breast.
We are quiet, together, and naked
in the hot water.
I bathe with you every night
after I pick you up
from the daycare center.
You draw the bath,
undress in the corner,
and then wait for me
to come and cleanse you,
and do what she could not.