

2023

Mechanism

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Recommended Citation

Baum, Emma (2023) "Mechanism," *Exile*: Vol. 70: No. 1, Article 20.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile/vol70/iss1/20>

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Mechanism
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The numbness has been creeping for a month now,
budding from the ragged edges of my fingernails, unbidden.
I can feel it encroaching on my throat,
my larynx growing heavy and useless, a dammed river dried.
I reach into my pocket for myself and come up empty handed;
there's a hole in the stitches and I have fallen through.

Beneath aorta and ventricle, purpling melancholy sweet-talks me into sleep,
and I don't have time,
my cat naps last nine lives and
I have lessons to learn and people to become,
but there's a blade in the bedside table drawer
and it could be worse.

Submerged, I dream of a house by the sea
with pale yellow wallpaper and thin linen curtains that fan in brief bursts of breeze
to the beat of my deep-water breaths.