

2024

Unintended Renewals

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Recommended Citation

Glass, Brin (2024) "Unintended Renewals," *Exile*: Vol. 71: No. 1, Article 25.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile/vol71/iss1/25>

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Unintended Renewals
Brin Glass

A small spark catches heat and
fattens—they haven't met it yet.
The couple sit on their juniper

green couches with tapered oak
legs and drink Coke from a can.
They don't know it yet, but that

flicker begins to whirl. Making
haste, tearing through their attic,
from lips of a fireplace exhaust.

The husband rises from cushions
to tend to their garden, emerging
from the front door. He meets it.

The tiny spark, now ablaze, eats
at roof shingles and wind chimes
dangling from the third story. He

calls for help. He calls for his wife,
left on her couch, and she emerges
with his half-drunken can of coke.