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A Fallow Deer

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Author Bio

Elizabeth, of Timonium, Maryland, is a senior History major with minors in Writing and Civil War Era Studies. Her campus involvements include The Forum, GBurg TV, and Poetry Circle. The three things she enjoys most are dreaming about England, making late-night trips to Garryowen, and being an all-around goofball.

A Fallow Deer

Elizabeth Elliott

One clumsy bolt sends the fawn spilling out
Over the cliff with fine pinches of loess.
Splay-footed and suffering, she rests
On lacerated knees, a tender crus.

Close clusters of coral and barnacles shape
This cradle of beach, bowed with baked slabs.
Shredding apart in the capfuls of wind
Are the molted skins of new fiddler crabs.

Up pumps the tide, its shelly haul swilling
With bulging spiral whorls, pores drilled by worms,
Seaweed pulp, and half-bodies of jellies;
A harvest of the oldest, simplest forms.

She fusses on the sand. The water seeps
Potently; lice flee fur's dampening trap.
Dropping pricked ears and yielding to this,
She takes a drink, and tilts to nap.