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Bare

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Author Bio

Erica Johnson is a sophomore at Gettysburg College. She is majoring in both English and Spanish. During breaks, she lives in Wheaton, Illinois. Her favorite activities include reading, sleeping, writing, and eating deep dish pizza. "I don't want to achieve immortality through my work, I want to achieve it through not dying." Woody Allen.

Erica Johnson

Bare

I remember. I do.

Although sometimes I think that maybe I have just contrived a few stories,
strung them together,
and now dutifully call them my past.

I unravel like a knit sweater caught on a nail when you touch me,
soft threaded color unheld together.

I wish I could erase you from my bones,
create a new story, and put it where you used to be.

The way you speak, the words you choose, fall beautifully on the air,
like an old song on the radio without it's melody.

It's the wish, the hope
and the tug, the pull

all tumbling and tearing apart the gnawing pulse of want.

But in the end it's the emptiness of knowing that wanting you depends on
the heat of you wanting me.

The convenience of availability,
the cleavage that spills over the seams of fabric of my old yellow shirt,
and that's all it takes to spark an interest inside of you.

We act like we give, but really we just take in our own way.

The flip of fate, urged on by the touch of a hand and a few choice words,
and I'm yours.