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Plath's Cremation

Brendan M. Raleigh
Gettysburg College, ralebr01@gettysburg.edu
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Author Bio

Brendan Raleigh is currently in his sophomore year at Gettysburg College. He writes and edits for The Gettysburgian newspaper and works as a tutor at the college's Writing Center.

Plath's Cremation

Brendan Raleigh

I read that Hughes had burnt
the last of his wife's journals;
allowed her poems, her prose,
her memory to be forgotten in
the hearth by which she wrote.

And I wondered how it felt
to have the very voice of his love
curl up into swirling, swelling clouds
of blackened ash, bound to linger
and haunt the poet and his house
for years and years to come –
an immovable, implacable reminder
that never would she write again.

Had he read her final words?
And was it their eternal echoes
that rang throughout his mind?

Or was it the pain of knowing that,
while Plath's body had been buried,
it was her soul that had been burned.