



# THE MERCURY

THE STUDENT ART & LITERARY MAGAZINE OF GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

---

Year 2014

Article 25

---

5-2-2014

## Plath's Cremation

Brendan M. Raleigh

Gettysburg College, ralebr01@gettysburg.edu

Class of 2016

Follow this and additional works at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/mercury>

 Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

**Share feedback about the accessibility of this item.**

---

Raleigh, Brendan M. (2014) "Plath's Cremation," *The Mercury*: Year 2014, Article 25.

Available at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/mercury/vol2014/iss1/25>

This open access poetry is brought to you by The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of The Cupola. For more information, please contact [cupola@gettysburg.edu](mailto:cupola@gettysburg.edu).

---

# Plath's Cremation

**Keywords**

creative writing, poetry

**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.