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Hemorrhage

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Author Bio

Emily Pierce is a writer by choice and a dreamer by design. She is a sophomore English major with a writing concentration, simultaneously pursuing a minor in Cinema and Media Studies. In the words of Lin-Manuel Miranda, "I wanna build something that's gonna outlive me."

Hemorrhage

Emily Pierce

I was thirteen
and they saved me,
one week after I'd
faced my fear
of routine procedure
and hobbled away
whispering, "That wasn't so bad."

I was thirteen
and my mother did not cry
in front of me,
because when your daughter goes pale
and insists she is *fine*
but you know she is not *fine* ,
you can't let her see.

I was thirteen
and we were watching the ballet
from our living room.
I tasted blood—
my blood—
so they cauterized me
and took me under
and I remember saying,
"Mama, just so you know,
Giselle dies at the end of act one."

I was thirteen—
was that all?—
and they saved me;
my voice sings on,
my spirit sighs,

and I am not Giselle,
for my heart beats a steady dance

even as you broke it,
even if these pages drip red
and I run to my mother's arms
when you cross my mind;
please do not dance yourself to death
for my sake.