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## Hemorrhage

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# Hemorrhage

**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.