



The Mercury

The Student Art &
Literary Magazine
of Gettysburg
College

Volume 2024

Article 18

May 2024

The Questioning

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Recommended Citation

Slevin-Trigo, Beatrice (2024) "The Questioning," *The Mercury*. Year 2024, Article 18.
Available at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/mercury/vol2024/iss1/18>

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The Questioning

Author Bio

Beatrice Slevin-Trigo is a sophomore student double majoring in English with a writing concentration and business, organization, and management. Writing has always been part of her life, and she hopes to become a published novelist in the future.

The Questioning

BEATRICE SLEVIN-TRIGO

Can I hunger for a claim
on which I have no stake—
May I hunger,
for what needs no words?
Should my fingers
trace a phrase, a shape,
an angled alphabet against your jaw,
and thumb the pulse out from under
your cold skin,
that jitters with an immutable energy
I have never understood?
The flame casts no shadow,
but the wall feels the heat—
feels the flush of paint melting
only inches away from the blaze.
The night hears no silence,
like the silence humans do
after they have exhausted themselves
of all the reason that their pleasure imbibes;
Like the quiet that comes after
their little whispered facts,
spoken in the blushing dark with a universal certainty
that their words will bypass the moment.
There is no forever
that is kind,
And no comparative shortness
that makes forever mean,
Though meaner things have been said
throughout forever, all the same,
With less understanding
than people behind a door's private shadow,
clinging onto an impermanent present.

Would that I knew these soft sensations,
I would turn them, *turn* them;
Twist them around my wrist like a staircase,
and we would walk a flight down,
stepping on each other's heels,
clutching onto the railings—
And make my stairwell veins blue with laughter.