



10-2014

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Recommended Citation

Webb, Lindsey (2014) "The Procedure Thus," *Inscape*: Vol. 34 : No. 1 , Article 18.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/inscape/vol34/iss1/18>

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THE PROCEDURE THUS

by Lindsey Webb

He takes in one hand a large grey ream of linen, slightly rough. To the woman standing far across he holds it up, or pushes, tightens. Across the room she, looking gray, feels slightly rough—stretched along the bias. No one sees her move. He lays it down her back and folds it in at her stomach; she appears to recline, look away, then fall—sharp edges—inside, taking it with her, growing inward like a bud.