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# Grief

Martha Haskins Hume

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# Grief

Martha Haskins Hume\*

Grief crawls on padded  
elbows, crooking  
the space of absence  
in hollow arms.  
The black cowl  
hovers, empties  
into air — a mask  
to lisp the silences  
of the heart.

\*Dr. Hume is assistant professor of English at Radford College, Radford, Va.  
Her poetry has been published widely.