

Inscape

Volume 21 | Number 1

Article 17

3-1-2001

Because He Never Stopped

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Recommended Citation

Krueger, Susan (2001) "Because He Never Stopped," Inscape: Vol. 21: No. 1, Article 17. Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/inscape/vol21/iss1/17

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Because He Never Stopped

Susan Krueger third place poetry

She ate his hands. First she boiled them, and boiled they grew, soaking up water like bread.

A recipe for her resentment and his indifference, she took his hands, placed them carefully on the kitchen table, and with her iron she worked them flat. They were her babies.

She held them limp to her mouth. The air in—out—she pushed with all her might, and took the plump, soft, swollen paws, covered them in lemon juice, placed them in a pillowcase, then fell asleep, clutching the white cotton full of hands.