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June 2014

## the select trick

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### Recommended Citation

Mansberger, Victoria L. (2014) "the select trick," *The Laureate*: Vol. 8 , Article 14.  
Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/laureate/vol8/iss1/14>

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## the select trick

Victoria L. Mansberger

you touched this typewriter  
fell backward  
sank  
into this chair  
in this way

at the weight  
of hammer to ribbon  
to paper  
your fingertips  
felt like little  
soft and sensitive gods

glowing still wet  
against stark white  
i read  
what you had  
put there

and when i saw  
what bruises black  
and shining  
hammers had hit there

i knew what it was  
to be you  
to be a breath  
to be a tree  
to be something that both lives and dies  
marking unfortunate milestones