
Pro Rege

Volume 50
Number 2 *Fine Arts Issue*

Article 5

December 2021

Day After Beating

Erica Hughes

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hughes, Erica (2021) "Day After Beating," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 50: No. 2, 7.
Available at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol50/iss2/5

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at Digital Collections @ Dordt. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pro Rege by an authorized administrator of Digital Collections @ Dordt. For more information, please contact ingrid.mulder@dordt.edu.

Day After Beating

Erica Hughes – Dordt alum, Ph.D. student at U of Illinois, Chicago

I offered to crack the alabaster
of my child body to heal

the wreckage of us. She sat
beneath the window on our

leather loveseat, in our one-
bedroom apartment—her left

hand curled like a branch
under her chin. I approached,

laid my forehead against
her shoulder. As if to say—

I didn't mean it.

She stiffened—lifted my eager
head from her body. *Now,*

she said, *they'll take you
from me.* I sat in the empty

seat beside her, watching
the light of the afternoon

spill through the blinds,
refracting off white walls,

striping my mother's honey-
brown face blue.