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# Pro Rege

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Volume 50  
Number 2 *Fine Arts Issue*

Article 5

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December 2021

## Day After Beating

Erica Hughes

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### Recommended Citation

Hughes, Erica (2021) "Day After Beating," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 50: No. 2, 7.

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# Day After Beating

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*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.