

# CutBank

---

Volume 1  
Issue 7 *CutBank* 7

Article 13

---

Fall 1976

## Aladdin Lamp

Madeline De Frees

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

---

### Recommended Citation

De Frees, Madeline (1976) "Aladdin Lamp," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 7 , Article 13.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss7/13>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

## ALADDIN LAMP

With luck and the slow hand of the lover  
I polish the lamp  
to its antique glow. Over the ring of incised  
rectangles where the double wick climbs  
I watch the girl  
dreaming by firelight. She plucks  
the burning pitch from coals, lifts it high as a torch  
and escapes the small brass picket fence  
into the next century.

Nothing goes on but the fire. Swirls of opaque  
roses caught in a slender chimney.  
Clear at the heart of the globe's  
Victorian shade  
she runs with leaping tongues, the steady beat  
of the trackstar. Small legs  
pumping down the block  
into the street where skaters gathered and past  
the great beetle light of the tropics.

Wood spits in the andiron grate. What do apple logs  
know, too old to catch fire? The pale observer  
shudders from the cold room  
toward the milky dawn of Chicago. She says,  
If I kicked over the lantern would the man up late  
notice? Already the hillside moon  
lifts a gnarled trunk in its tongs. Hurricane  
sweep of barn and town. Sky  
in the window blazes.