

Fall 1987

## 85—Sympathy

Laura Jensen

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## 85—*Sympathy*

Green recollection — heat of summer.  
Brutality everywhere in words said.

Five women were raped in this  
neighborhood in the past few weeks.  
Young women just coming in  
and surprised at their door.

Just coming in. I thank  
the Channel Four reporters  
with their cameras at the news car  
and get on my bus.

I shop and return and carry in  
the food. I sit and look down  
at the green world of summer where

two garden workers  
are doing a lawn. I fall  
wordlessly into deep depression.

The fall is physical. I feel  
myself falling. Then sleep is hard.  
I watch a large knife  
close to my bed. The light on  
to keep me from sleeping. The world

comes to an end. I know  
I have been said from these tall men,  
lights in their bodies  
burning, a brutal fact in their words.

I have been said. The green heat  
of summer overturns into green fear.  
And their world ends.

*Laura Jensen*