

# CutBank

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Volume 1  
Issue 1 *CutBank* 1

Article 31

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Spring 1973

## Quarantine

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### Recommended Citation

Brown, Elizabeth (1973) "Quarantine," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 31.

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## QUARANTINE

The girl in the asylum makes circles,  
and bumps the wall 3000 times a day.  
Otherwise she rams her forehead  
into shadows. The walls are light green.

For lunch the man on the forty-first floor  
unclosets his life-size mannequin,  
ties her in starched white aprons  
and runs his hands between her legs.

In the center of North Bay Towers  
in a room without chairs beneath 250 watts  
of clear bulb surrounded by cans, a man  
pastes labels on himself and peels them off.

The lady wears a black hat in front of white stone  
walls that look like Spain. Look closer, it's a rat  
and the walls scream. What kind of man has painted her?

White frames of mind. Dark birds loom  
behind my shoulder, feasting. This hacking away. Breath.  
These days I can measure the hurt in degrees.