

CutBank

Volume 1
Issue 3 *CutBank* 3

Article 20

Spring 1974

Fifty Years

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Recommended Citation

Savage, Annemarie (1974) "Fifty Years," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 3 , Article 20.

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FIFTY YEARS

Every day you count your children,
write with someone else's name.
The shelves on the wall thicken
with Freud, Jung, Adler
for thirty years
while your young legs pass thru

your husband's eyes
and your flat stomach turns
four more revolutions.

You have raised us strong, mother.
We have lived, looking for your face
and the scar from the middle child passes
in a threat of coast towns
where waves gone sour have left the shore.

We have waited for you to grow
and see in us the wrinkles
behind the coal miner's brow,
his eyes a hard resin,
your eyes his,
hardly ours at all.