

Spring 1977

Promise for a Dark Child

Rich Ives

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Recommended Citation

Ives, Rich (1977) "Promise for a Dark Child," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 8 , Article 15.

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PROMISE FOR A DARK CHILD

for Anita Endrezze

As the animals wake
their shadows move deeper into them.
Wearing a necklace of bone pebbles,
hunger arrives. The scraping of dull knives
leaves with the angel of dark noises.
The light at your feet
sleeps quietly in the dust.

Softly it begins,
the tender violence of staying.
Dreams of mating and fire.
Another hermit comes down from the mountains.
I, too, am not your father.