

CutBank

Volume 1
Issue 19 *CutBank* 19

Article 28

Fall 1982

Carefully

LuAnn Keener

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

Keener, LuAnn (1982) "Carefully," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 19 , Article 28.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss19/28>

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.

CAREFULLY

Behind the door of an afternoon I sometimes sense
someone waiting. Not the dead in their collapsing houses,
not the ghost who has never left the room
where one evening his veins turned to violin strings.
Not the past that bunches round my limbs like yellowed cloth
in the room where I lived my girlhood, in the house
where my grandmother died, where my mother
spends her days emptying boxes of her father's shoes,
her mother's gloves, into other boxes.

Not these, but a shade of the future.
Like a child who keeps walking back to the place
where other children spat at him and his mother
laughed. He watches from hedges, from the smogged windows
of gables. I think he is waiting to judge me.
Perhaps if I spread the cloth over the table
with a certain gentleness, he will be comforted.
Then I can coax him in, put him to sleep
in a bed I have made ready. And begin a strange
motherhood, where all that could undo me
breathes softly in the next room.