

Fall 1983

## Listening to One Thing at a Time

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### Recommended Citation

Humes, Harry (1983) "Listening to One Thing at a Time," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 21 , Article 16.

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## LISTENING TO ONE THING AT A TIME

Say it is evening and a neighbor's hardwoods  
float on the mosquito mist rising from the fields,

or morning and a woman sits on a bed  
in a black dress twisting her fingers around and around

and talking of white blossoms,  
say it is the air picking up speed

and the season unfolding like a shape you almost miss.  
Maybe the woman is now by a table

studying the red-winged blackbirds  
calling above the hickory and mint.

Say there is a road north with foxglove and lobelia,  
that it's only the whistling

behind the crockery of late afternoon  
or just before dawn that causes her to pause

and for a moment remember a single sound  
like ice sliding into Baffin Bay,

the green note of memory this blue day  
singing through a grain of dust.