

CutBank

Volume 1
Issue 47 *CutBank* 47

Article 6

Spring 1997

Entendre

Karin Schalm

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

Schalm, Karin (1997) "*Entendre*," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 47 , Article 6.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss47/6>

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.

ENTENDRE

She wraps red flannel dipped in camphor
around her knuckles. An amber ring
dimples her middle finger, poking through
the homemade bandage, shining
in the fire light.

Her name means “Destroyer” in English.
She has learned to call the ring her “resignation.”
Its cold metal band sends a sting up the left arm
to her breast. Pain knots up like sea weed
clumped tight around stone.
She took scissors to her shirt
down at Beaufort Coast, thinking the operation
simple. And why not? Hadn’t she chased
the giant with just enough pluck to make him tumble
off the edge of the world?

Two sandhill cranes tear her coarse sacks
piled high with imported rice for winter.
The large cinnamon-colored birds sing as if they
had marbles
rattling in their throats. Their song becomes a race,
the gurgling tune running faster until a creamy film
covers their grain-stuffed beaks.