Spring 1980

Family Secret translated by Elisabeth Hamilton-LaCoste

Blanca Varella

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
Available at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss14/17

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.
FAMILY SECRET

I dreamed about a dog
a skinned dog
his body singing his red body whistling
I asked the other
the one who turns out the butcher’s light
what happened
why are we in the dark

it’s a dream you’re alone
there is no other
light doesn’t exist
you are the dog you are the flower that howls
softly sharpen your tongue
your sweet black tongue on four paws

the burning you feel in dreams
is the human hide disappearing
only this dog’s red pulp is clean
the real light’s in the crust
of the dog’s eye
you are the dog
everynight you are the skinned dog
you dream of yourself and that’s all

translated by
Elisabeth Hamilton-LaCoste