

Between

Caitlin Scheresky

Runner-up for the 2022 Gladys Boen Scholarship

The Gladys Boen Scholarship is awarded “for the best short story, poem or collection of poems, or essay submitted by an undergraduate currently enrolled in the university.” The Creative Writing Scholarship Committee had this to say on Caitlin Scheresky’s “Between,” the runner-up for this year’s Gladys Boen Scholarship: *“In this poem, Caitlin Scheresky addresses the inexorable march of time and the impossibility of escaping its inevitable progress. Yet, in that space, Caitlin’s poem generates hope, closeness, and tenderness.”*

Time shows no mercy towards those who do not
Heed her warning.
When she comes, and she will,
She flows between gusts of wind,
Flares of red and gold and pink;
She will make no sound,
leaving behind grace and dewdrops
And silk and honey.
You will not see her coming,
For if you do, it will have been
Too late.

Time is endless, and we are not. But
To us, I pray,
She grants just a bit more.
Enough to find balance
Between blankets and body heat,
To memorize the swell of
Lungs filling, emptying, the steady beat
Of hearts intertwined.
Just enough, nothing more,
For layers of our own skin we peel back
To clot crimson and scar violet,
Please
Let us become permanent
As we march forward, step by step, closer to destruction,
A hell of our own making.

Sometimes
I think I can feel her coming.

But here,
Behind this brick and glass, hidden deep within
Support beams and Insulation, between
layers of spruce, of secrets and stories told
through sips of
Coffee and the clinking of cups,
Of bodies explored, skin soft, breaths
Shallow,
All that is, is still, is peace.
In our own corner of the world,
Time stopped, breathless, and
We are safe.
Within these walls we create our own fire, our own sin,
And it is beautiful, and we are safe.

Caitlin Scheresky is a freshman at UND, currently pursuing her degree in English. When she's not collecting her passing thoughts in her notes app or on spare sticky notes, she's spending time with friends and family, petting her dogs, listening to music, or, of course, reading.

