

## 어 리 다

### **Veronika Linstrom**

*Winner of the 2024 Thomas McGrath Award in Poetry  
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she says eat up as if it's the simplest thing in the world and it really is but you can't seem to understand that you've never understood it not in the easy way that she does because by god all you do is stare at your fettuccine like a fucking freak who thinks the light graze of your gaze is enough nutrients for one day even when the hopeless look in her eyes tells you it's not and logically you know that but logic doesn't work for you it's never worked for you even when it's plain and simple because you feel too much and overthink stupid shit like that broken faucet that can't stop leaking you can't stop thinking but they're not even smart thoughts they're just junk all junk and holy fuck can you stop staring at your noodles like that like they're some figure from your nightmares coming to haunt you and just eat the DAMN food she made for you without crying about it why the HELL are you crying she slaved over this for you and here you are dirtying it with your tears your STUPID GODDAMN CRYBABY tears that can't ever stop because your faucet is broken and YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIX IT god why can't you just fucking eat like YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO she's just trying to keep you alive and yeah SHE DOESN'T LOVE YOU but at least she's feeding you at least she's keeping you around why can't you SUCK IT UP and eat already

*A note about the title:*

어 리 다 (pronounced eo-ri-da) is a Korean verb that can refer to the gathering or welling up of tears in one's eyes, or one being filled with energy or emotion.

**Veronika Linstrom** is an undergraduate student at UND pursuing a bachelor's degree in English. After they graduate, Veronika hopes to pursue their passion for writing and become an author. In their free time, Veronika can be found scribbling down ideas for their next piece or with their nose in a good book.