

2001

Untitled

Melissa A. Japp
St. John Fisher College

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Recommended Citation

Japp, Melissa A. (2001) "Untitled," *The Angle*: Vol. 2001: Iss. 3, Article 9.
Available at: <http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/angle/vol2001/iss3/9>

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Cover Page Footnote

Appeared in the issue: April 2001.

Melissa A. Japp

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You never understood
Why I retreat into words
Or how poetry can tell a story—
 My story of my life in my writing in my books
 But you see. . .
Behind diction lurks feeling
Beneath letters cowards love
Punctuation ciphers tears
Covets nerves
Conceals fears
 All you view is paper with graphite smudges
 Secret codes that you don't want to solve
But if you felt each pulp fiber you'd find. . .
Ink stain bruises
Perforated smiles
Alphabet thoughts hard to sing
 Permanence through the art of print
 Is threatening, alarming, desired
 You're afraid of what you will discover
 Buried underneath the alliteration, analogies
 And those damn metaphors
'Cause you know that
My hand doesn't lie