

2004

Speak

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Cover Page Footnote

"First Prize Winner" Appeared in the issue: Volume 5, Issue 2, 2004.

SARA CAVANAUGH

SPEAK

I sat down to write you
Began remembering the way your tongue found itself between my lips
teeth
into where you consumed
found your home within me
Remembered that
that's all we had
your tongue
A pioneer of exploring
where you would conquer
No words slipped off your tongue
made way passed your teeth and lips
Never speaking what your were motioning to my heart
I started to write
Remembered the way your hands slipped under the covers and claimed my thighs
Remembered the many times before I wished your hands would speak for your mouth
Speak to say whatever your hands were feeling and remembered
you were mute
I sat down and my ink flowed but
not for you
Flooded the pages
words scattered
But not for you
I found myself like you,
not under the covers or in consumption of your mouth
I couldn't write to tell you why
or how
or when
I became mute too
When I couldn't find the words to tell you
I wrote this poem to show you-
that when your tongue can't speak
and your teeth are in the way
your hands can do more than touch
Speak