

2005

## Today

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**Cover Page Footnote**

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# EMILY RYAN

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## TODAY

Today  
she is left to seek herself  
in bathroom mirrors;  
where purple bags of blood  
from her heart are  
caught beneath her eyes,  
where thoughts rest  
trapped  
beneath straightened hair  
mascara, blush, toothpaste -  
she can't tell where she begins.

Over the running water  
it is impossible to tell  
her beating heart  
from the changing numbers  
on the alarm clock.  
She stares  
into the rippling water  
where bubbles collect  
iridescent light  
and reflect fragments of her face  
in rippling shadows.

She buckles her watch,  
her shoes, clasps her necklace,  
her coat and mittens;  
armed and ready.  
Her watch ticks  
in time with her  
breaths that taste  
of perfume and early morning haze.  
With one glance in the mirror  
her legs, her clothes, her hair,  
are out the door.

But she went down with the bubbles.