

1997

1:45 a.m.

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Cover Page Footnote

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The room was gray and cold and quiet now;
not the same room in which I had spent
the last fourteen hours passing in and out of
consciousness. The doctors were gone;
the nurses but one had left me to my peace;
my parents were home and my sister was out.
My hour old daughter was getting a bath, or
asleep in the nursery.

I watched the immigrant nurse busily cleaning the
room's remnants of our delivery; I heard her rubber
soles padding firmly on the concrete floor.
I watched her as though she were on an ancient movie screen.
Black and white and grainy through my
clouded vision, and dim lights.
she gathered my things and disappeared, returning
with a wheelchair.
I wanted a cigarette. I wanted to sleep.

--Theresa Keenan

