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## Between

Caitlin Scheresky

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### ***Runner-up for the 2022 Gladys Boen Scholarship***

The Gladys Boen Scholarship is awarded “for the best short story, poem or collection of poems, or essay submitted by an undergraduate currently enrolled in the university.” The Creative Writing Scholarship Committee had this to say on Caitlin Scheresky’s “Between,” the runner-up for this year’s Gladys Boen Scholarship: *“In this poem, Caitlin Scheresky addresses the inexorable march of time and the impossibility of escaping its inevitable progress. Yet, in that space, Caitlin’s poem generates hope, closeness, and tenderness.”*

Time shows no mercy towards those who do not  
Heed her warning.  
When she comes, and she will,  
She flows between gusts of wind,  
Flares of red and gold and pink;  
She will make no sound,  
leaving behind grace and dewdrops  
And silk and honey.  
You will not see her coming,  
For if you do, it will have been  
Too late.

Time is endless, and we are not. But  
To us, I pray,  
She grants just a bit more.  
Enough to find balance  
Between blankets and body heat,  
To memorize the swell of  
Lungs filling, emptying, the steady beat  
Of hearts intertwined.  
Just enough, nothing more,  
For layers of our own skin we peel back  
To clot crimson and scar violet,  
Please  
Let us become permanent  
As we march forward, step by step, closer to destruction,  
A hell of our own making.

Sometimes  
I think I can feel her coming.

But here,  
Behind this brick and glass, hidden deep within  
Support beams and Insulation, between  
layers of spruce, of secrets and stories told  
through sips of  
Coffee and the clinking of cups,  
Of bodies explored, skin soft, breaths  
Shallow,  
All that is, is still, is peace.  
In our own corner of the world,  
Time stopped, breathless, and  
We are safe.  
Within these walls we create our own fire, our own sin,  
And it is beautiful, and we are safe.

**Caitlin Scheresky** is a freshman at UND, currently pursuing her degree in English. When she's not collecting her passing thoughts in her notes app or on spare sticky notes, she's spending time with friends and family, petting her dogs, listening to music, or, of course, reading.

