

# **Booth**

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## December

Laura Read

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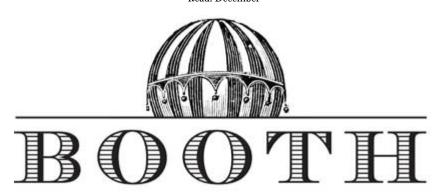
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#### **Abstract**

I'm walking in the snow past a house with Barbie's head in the window. She is hairless and forgotten behind a shade, she's got a neck and shoulders like the doll I used to have.

#### Keywords

poem, poetry, snow, winter, sick





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## December

A Poem by Laura Read

I'm walking in the new snow past a house with Barbie's head in the window. She is hairless and forgotten behind a shade, she's got a neck and shoulders like the doll I used to have. I used to brush her gold hair and curl it and do all the things you can do with hair before someone cuts it off.

She is watching me
with the eyes of cancer patients
waiting in the lobby.
My eyes are crushed with sleep
and the wanting to sleep,
my arms are curled
around the empty space on the sheet

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where there are no more infants swaddled like those bald heads in scarves, sleeping in the milk-light.

How long will she be forgotten there, her eyes never shutting, her lids dotted with glitter?

At least her breasts are not flesh, don't know about milk, or the end of it, all those mineral veins going quiet in the chest, or the slabs of metal that press each one flat to take pictures of what's inside, white masses hidden, the snow that hasn't fallen yet.

Laura Read has published poems in a variety of journals, most recently in Rattle, The Mississippi Review, and The Bellingham Review. Her chapbook, The Chewbacca on Hollywood Boulevard Reminds Me of You, was the 2010 winner of the Floating Bridge Chapbook Award, and her collection, Instructions for My Mother's Funeral, was the 2011 winner of the AWP Donald Hall Prize for Poetry and will be published next year by the University of Pittsburgh Press.



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