

The Prairie Light Review

Volume 24

Number 1 *Warning! May Contain Explicit Content*

Article 59

Fall 12-1-2003

Fear Of Falling

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College of DuPage

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Recommended Citation

Armbruster, Barbara (2003) "Fear Of Falling," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 24 : No. 1 , Article 59.
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol24/iss1/59>

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FEAR OF FALLING

Barbara Armbruster

Fear of hitting a bone-rattling hole,
flying over the bars,
scraping soft flesh
on unyielding pavement.
Fear of missing a brush-hidden curve,
wavering, frozen
hoping for the luck of Pamplona
outrunning the bulls.
Fear of encountering boys with shaved heads
tied up like pirates,
who dart from the factory
boarded-up, vacant,
and stare down my right
to be riding this trail.
Fear of the distance--
that I'll sail out
carried along by the joy of the wind
and lose all landmarks,
slump by a boulder
mouth dry as carpet--
just dragons beyond.
Fear that the road which appears infinite
as a drawing on perspective,
may be never ending,
that for some sin I'm sentenced
to ride on and on.