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## The Napping House Fucked Me Up

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*The Napping House Fucked Me Up*

EMILY SHANK

I've cut myself  
On the shards of unfinished stories  
As I try desperately  
To keep them from falling into the abyss

They slip through my fingers  
And they are chased  
By rivulets of crimson  
The sting is like winter air  
A biting reminder that  
The world consumes warmth from life

In the frozen morning  
My heart demands  
Hermitage with those whose presence  
Means warmth, sanctuary, and peace

But that is a desire forever denied  
It is a wish better suited  
For the colorful pages  
Of a children's book.

Alexa Solonenko. *I Know Who You Are*. Photography.

