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Editor's Note

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"You must never feel badly about making mistakes ... as long as you take the trouble to learn from them. For you often learn more by being wrong for the right reasons than you do by being right for the wrong reasons."

— Norton Juster, *The Phantom Tollbooth*

Every writer has had—I hope—those beautiful moments, when they sit down to write, and the words flow and tumble and avalanche out of their mind and onto the page, and furthermore the words are the right words, the ones that further the story and develop the characters and subtly but consistently convey salient symbolism.

Those moments, for me, at least, make up maybe four percent of the writing process. And the beautiful, magical, life-and-sanity-saving thing is that *Humbug* is there for the other ninety-six percent. Whether we're offering feedback or just commiserating about writer's block in the Poetry Room after a week where we've all had more creativity than perhaps time or output, *Humbug* remains a space of support and community.

This is what makes us different, not just from other student publications, but almost everything other aspect of life at Dartmouth—*Humbug* expects, even encourages mistakes and imperfections. Without them, our workshops would lose meaning, our community would not exist. And so we do not strive for perfection, but improvement, and it is that which we present to you here, in this chapbook.

I would be remiss in my attempt to introduce the efforts of our term if I did not take the time to mention two people—the Milo and the Tock, if you will, to my *Humbug*. First Isabelle, my co-editor-in-chief, who is off having adventures and whom we dearly miss. Secondly, Katie, who has not only stepped up, but soared beyond anything I could have asked for this term as a leader and collaborator.

Yours,
Madeleine Waters