

The Messenger

Volume 2012
Issue 1 *The Messenger*, Spring 2012

Article 29

Spring 2012

Alphabet Poem

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Recommended Citation

Hoffman, Katherine (2012) "Alphabet Poem," *The Messenger*: Vol. 2012: Iss. 1, Article 29.
Available at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger/vol2012/iss1/29>

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ALPHABET POEM

By Katherine Hoffman

And there you were in
blue evening, waiting on the stone
curb, cold hands nervously
drawn into pockets,
eyes soft in the dark as I, road-
fragile, stepped off the
grey bus and took your
hand. Walking home, you and
I slipped carefully around
jagged sidewalk fractures,
knotted tree roots splintering through,
luminous as two
moons in failing light,
numberless skyscrapers
overhead-- a forest of uneven figures
piercing purple sky. It was
quiet and I shivered but you
reached for me and we walked
straight down the long path
toward home,
unyielding in the advancing
violet tide. Together
we were a glimmering
xenolith in cracked cement,
yellow as leaves in an autumn
zephyr.

