

# The Oval

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Volume 1 | Issue 1

Article 26

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2008

## It's Almost Winter

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### Recommended Citation

Jerman, Ashley C. (2008) "It's Almost Winter," *The Oval*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 26.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/oval/vol1/iss1/26>

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# It's Almost Winter

sleep or love like it  
frames our faces in arms  
between our good bodies  
and the leaves  
spin my hair  
into yellow mittens //

winter isn't hard with you here  
and I will split the wood  
in your grandfather's sweater //  
in leaves that won't fall  
so we'll pick them //  
give them to the ground //  
warm the dirt before the cold  
comes in blue fingers  
we'll build a fire to keep the sunlight


beaming at you  
across the room  
when the window is open  
we're too big to carry it //  
the open breeze  
that ripened our stale bodies  
is still with us now // lifting  
my curtains onto my bed

we breathe like trains:

into maps and exhale  
stories of how we arrived  
with flowers  
woven into iron rails  
behind us

70

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the rails merge  
any desert moving  
with one diner  
ten cars each  
and a phone booth  
is where I call from  
to give myself away  
when you need it  
telephones don't ring //  
on the road

is like your head  
and blankets like your stories  
are true and  
lies sometimes  
like mine

when our faces are safe  
in our arms //  
I am at my station //  
I do not have walls  
to keep us inside

71

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