

Ellipsis

Volume 42

Article 16

2015

The night after you break up with me (or whatever we're calling it)

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Recommended Citation

Lowy, Maya (2015) "The night after you break up with me (or whatever we're calling it)," *Ellipsis*: Vol. 42 , Article 16.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46428/ejail.42.16>

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uno.edu/ellipsis/vol42/iss1/16>

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**The night after you break up with me
(or whatever we're calling it)**

Maya Lowy

Vassar Miller Poetry Award Honorable Mention

I make myself dinner for the first time in a long time.
I even have two burners going at once.
The door to the kitchen is closed, the door to the balcony
is open. I taste the sauté
as it cooks, I time the noodles by feel.

Everything is delicious, even the old fish.
Your sweat is still in my sheets from five days back,
and you don't matter!
I chew the stems of the mustard greens
for their greenness: they taste sweet.