



Hieroglyphics: the NSU University School Literary Magazine

Volume 13 *Tempest*

Article 6

5-1-2006

Mechanical Alice

Samantha LaRocco
NSU University School

Follow this and additional works at: http://nsuworks.nova.edu/uschool_litmag



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

LaRocco, Samantha (2006) "Mechanical Alice," *Hieroglyphics: the NSU University School Literary Magazine*: Vol. 13, Article 6.
Available at: http://nsuworks.nova.edu/uschool_litmag/vol13/iss1/6

This Poem is brought to you for free and open access by the University School at NSUWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hieroglyphics: the NSU University School Literary Magazine by an authorized administrator of NSUWorks. For more information, please contact nsuworks@nova.edu.

Mechanical Alice

Samantha La Rocco

Alice sits upright at the dinner table,
Her perma-smile plastered on her face
Her armor against Dad's critical gaze.
Her shield, her visible invisibility.

Her unseeing eyes locked straight ahead
Perfect posture for a perfect daughter.
"How was your day?"
"Fine," says mechanical Alice.

Don't frown Alice,
Don't cry Alice,
Don't scream Alice,
No one likes a difficult girl.

She leaves the table,
Wanting a little more,
Good girls leave the food
For the men.

With morning comes the school bus,
She takes her seat, quickly filling her ears with
Screaming guitars and pained voices
Before the taunts and laughter
Fill them first.

Don't speak Alice,
Don't take notice Alice,
Don't scowl Alice,
No one needs an emotional girl.

She drags her feet to her desk,
Her stomach plunges.
A cold, unforgiving white paper awaits
Marred only by bold red reminders
Of all she's done wrong.

Hours pass and she's home again,
But the black hole of dread still tugs
Tearing at her insides
As she shows Dad her red mistakes.

Aggressive hands and blazing eyes.
Accusations. Disappointment.
All that's left are the white pieces,
Fluttering slowly to the faded carpet,
As Dad destroys it all.

Behave Alice,
Grin and bear it Alice,
Bite your tongue Alice,
Everyone wants a silent girl.