

2002

Hesitation

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Recommended Citation

Douglas, Kim (2002) "Hesitation," *Grand Valley Review*. Vol. 25 : Iss. 1 , Article 19.
Available at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gvr/vol25/iss1/19>

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Hesitation

Go, even though Flight 1184 will crash,
not at lift-off, not at departure, but mid-flight

Scuba divers will pull from the shark-infested depths
your pens, your smeared books

Your daughters will stand on shore
weeping for the body that held them,

breast-fed them, taught them
the *O God Guide Me* prayer

You could have prevented this departure
which draws even strangers out to mourn

You could have prevented the funeral,
your family and friends struggling

to comprehend a young mother gone,
her daughters only four and seven

You could have stayed home
the old Toyota in the closed garage

You could have peeled carrots,
read a novel, waited at the bus stop

for your girls to step down
from the yellow tunnel of pre-adolescent

shouts—do it, do it, go ahead, turn the key,
make yourself drive yourself out of town

and you do, and miss the airport entrance,
saying, *oh shit!* as if you mean it

The long-term parking—so full
you run and board the jet out of breath

whisper: *not yet, please, not yet*
as you ascend from one state to the next

where you land, your body
whole, your body functional
and the blank pages fill
with the sludge come up

from the shark-infested depths