Masthead Logo

## The Iowa Review

Volume 23
Issue 1 *Winter* 

Article 20

1993

## The Robed Heart

Elizabeth Spires

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

## Recommended Citation

Spires, Elizabeth. "The Robed Heart." *The Iowa Review* 23.1 (1993): 121-121. Web. Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.4237

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

Body of the world! Body of flesh! Leaving this room, I leave the orbit of women. I dress and walk into the snowy night, into the great body of the world, cold, still, and expectant. Bodying forth, I am taken by the dark.

What am I? Asked, shall I say:

Struck by a spark, I quickened
and was born to flashing
days and nights, a small significance
of one. I did not wish to change,
but changed, feeling desire and fear
and love, failing many times.
My meaning made, I died,
the windows darkening for the last time.

We move, we love, we cry out, we hold or cannot hold to what we are and finally wake to find ourselves changed beyond all imagining.

Was it enough to have lived?

In that moment of still approach, will it be given to us to know?

## THE ROBED HEART

They come in white livery bringing the sun, the Robed Heart astride her white mount, crowds lining the royal road in anticipation. Ahead, the castle flying the new colors, a queen's great labors come to an end. A shout, and the cord is cut, the crown placed upon my head.

And I am, Mother, I am!