

April 2017

Birthmark

Rachel Lefebre

John Carroll University, rlefeb19@jcu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://collected.jcu.edu/jcr>



Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lefebre, Rachel (2017) "Birthmark," *The John Carroll Review*: Vol. 71 : Iss. 1 , Article 14.

Available at: <http://collected.jcu.edu/jcr/vol71/iss1/14>

This Poem is brought to you for free and open access by the Student at Carroll Collected. It has been accepted for inclusion in The John Carroll Review by an authorized editor of Carroll Collected. For more information, please contact connell@jcu.edu.

BIRTHMARK

Rachel Lefebre

This finger traces the imperfect pigment
on the inside of this leg
and this body is not the snake
slipping away from its skin.

You will mistake this birthmark
for a burn,
for an oil spill in an ocean, but

this body is not all survivor.
Do not bother with the bruises and the breaks,
this body holds on to those like baby teeth.

Most of this body is not torn
and this spot on the leg,
that looks like a bad memory, bad choice,
is a painless bright mark
and that is all this body tries to be in this world.