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January 2023

## Fragility

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### Recommended Citation

Provencio, Erika (2023) "Fragility," *The John Carroll Review*. Vol. 76: Iss. 1, Article 34.Available at: <https://collected.jcu.edu/jcr/vol76/iss1/34>

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## Fragility

Erika Provencio

It started in the breast  
and made its way  
throughout the body.  
Spreading slowly, seeping  
into the bones. A once strong  
body, capable of great things  
such as producing and carrying  
life, reduced to nothing but skin  
and bone. A full and happy life  
now spent in hospital beds.  
Medication coursing through  
the veins and constant rushes  
of nausea. The end was near.  
A night spent saying goodbye.  
My heart sunk as I told her  
all the things I didn't have a chance  
to tell her before. She didn't respond  
and only made noises of agony.  
Holding her hand as her life  
slipped away. Her body  
became frigid and stiff.  
Her face in death showed signs  
of peace. In that moment,  
I decided to braid her hair  
so that she would be beautiful.  
So we could remember her  
for who she was, not the suffering  
she has been through.