

1983

# Maintenance

Fleda Brown Jackson

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## Recommended Citation

Jackson, Fleda Brown. "Maintenance." *The Iowa Review* 13.3 (1982): 33-33. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.2931>

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Maintenance · *Fleda Brown Jackson*

Last Sunday when we installed the faucet  
and cracked the sink, I knew  
that nothing, however sound, is fixed.  
Then the cat got sick and died,  
and now under the bushes  
where the white tail used to whip  
there are only shadows blowing.

We make long walks in the dark.  
Between streetlights, bent down  
in our scarves, we take the cold air  
against us like medicine, leaving  
signs for anyone to follow—  
our tissue breaking down, hormones  
pulling back. At home,  
the pipe under the sink still drips  
from three joints where we've wrenched  
the threads half bare; the refrigerator  
has maybe two years left.  
The mortgage is dwindling.  
We accumulate frightening sums.