Incident in Winter

Daniel Halpern

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview
Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.3178
Incident in Winter · Daniel Halpern

A cage went in search of a bird
—Kafka

Someone had seen him wandering aimlessly among the trees after a heavy snow and called in the information. The cars came to a standstill at the turnaround in the dense cloud that covered the trees so that only basewood was visible. There was very little sound, only the revolving lights of official vehicles sweeping their scarlet beams off tree base and mountain wall, off the faces of passengers backed up down the mountain. Occasionally, the hollow, static reproduction of an official voice with a moment of information was passed on. Car exhaust puffed on air and no one was moving. And then to the side of the road a few men in uniform appeared at the treeline with a pleasant looking man in casual dress, being led to the road by either arm, a prisoner in search of his crime.