

2008

Margin

Warren Slesinger

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

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Slesinger, Warren. "Margin." *The Iowa Review* 38.1 (2008): 57-57. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.6406>

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.

WARREN SLESINGER

Margin

Margin (mar.gin) n-s 1. The space on a page beyond the main body of the text. 2. A pause in the thought process between the seen and the sensed. 3. The edge of vegetation that extends from the pine barrens to the tidal flats, a wetland the eye is hesitant to enter; its nature to remain separate from Nature, its guiding intelligence a step beyond the physical reality of so much salt marsh: the sun, a shadowy white against the green tussocks of cordgrass, the flight-dragging feet of the egrets, and the sagging planks on a spindly pier; sameness in a sinuous maze of stalks and blades: the heat-seething with insects, a glittering swarm; numberless fiddler crabs scuttling down identical holes; dull hunks of gurgling mollusks in gleaming muck; so much seepage that a stream curves, and cuts through the silt to the sea, a shimmering expanse. 4. The broad surface of an observed phenomenon from which an inference is drawn: Science assumes a subject in fact and form, but its origin remains half-hidden in the *margin*.