

A SHORT STORY FROM AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR, ELISABETH HARVOR

## HIERARCHY



AN EXCERPT . . . .

ELISABETH HARVOR

He was a paramedic on an Ottawa ambulance and she was a teacher who'd slipped on a small lake in her own kitchen, then fallen backwards to hit her head too hard on her bamboo floor. She must have blacked out at this point although two and a half days later she rolled over onto her belly, then shimmied as far as she could get in her attempt to reach the door of her apartment.

A loud noise must have startled her into consciousness, but by this time she was unable to sit up. One hand had been trapped beneath her left breast for who knew how long and had consequently gone numb.

Trying not to sound feeble, she called out, "Is anybody there?"

Nobody answered, but it was after all summer, everyone at her end of the hallway must have gone off to cottages or to wilderness camps on distant northern lakes.

. . . .

Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker* as well as in the *Best Canadian Stories* and *Best American Short Stories* anthologies.

*Let Me Be the One*, her third story collection, was a finalist for the 1996 Governor-General's Award.

She won the Alden Nowlan Award in 2000, the Engel Award in 2003, and the *Malahat* Novella Award for "Across Some Dark Avenue of Plot He Carried Her Body."

More recently she won second prize for "An Animal Trainer Urging A Big Cat Out of Its Cage" in *Prairie Fire's* Fiction competition in 2015.

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DAVE SKYRIE (COVER ART)

has a degree in Arts from Concordia University (Montreal) and works in a variety of media. His current work is an exploration of abstract forms and textures on larger canvases. A member of the Association of Acadian Artists of NB and the Writers Federation of NB, Dave has also published two books of poetry. He resides in Grand Barachois, NB.

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