

1-1-1987

The Last Recital

Ben Mitchell

Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gvr>

Recommended Citation

Mitchell, Ben (1986) "The Last Recital," *Grand Valley Review*: Vol. 2: Iss. 2, Article 11.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gvr/vol2/iss2/11>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Grand Valley Review by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.

BEN MITCHELL

The Last Recital

Nijinsky, Suvretta House, St. Moritz, 1919

Arms arched and crossed overhead,
fingers hung loose, the muscles beneath his shoulders untamed,
sinister, creeping from the underbrush of his costume,
for this moment confident everything
will work out in the end, he leans into the empty air.
Eyes half-closed, he begs god again.
He imagines himself a young girl, or rose.
Or faun, listening to the simple laws of decay
and strangeness fade from him.
But it is only a small gesture he will never return to;
he knows the girl he would become
is nothing
more than his fragile dream, and
fragility he sinks in and is lost.
But he makes it all seem so easy.
He is the meadow; wind alive in it,
light above the grass he's created for us,
alone, empty of even imagination
which is gone now as paryer, as ruin.
His muscles drift and surrender, no longer his own
as he hangs in the air above the make-shift stage
they've built for him, for the last dance,
and there are gasps again from the audience,
for him there in the air no longer himself,
no longer theirs,
just air, what he's become,
whole and finished.