

2002

## Elusive Preyers

Kim L. Ranger

*Grand Valley State University*

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Ranger, Kim L. (2002) "Elusive Preyers," *Grand Valley Review*. Vol. 25 : Iss. 1 , Article 16.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gvr/vol25/iss1/16>

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 editor of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@gvsu.edu](mailto:scholarworks@gvsu.edu).

## Elusive Preyers

Daydreaming on the porch,  
PHOEBE!  
startles me with raspy voice,  
harangues, "Feebee! Phoebe!"  
I want to duck into the corner rafters,  
temporarily a nested chick  
growing pinfeathers to cover my naked skin—  
lately too exposed to raw nightmares  
to sleep long and deeply,  
vulnerable to the black snake  
creeping out from under the water pump,  
startling at every unexpected movement or sound  
even from long-familiar friends.

Up on South Sister Knob,  
shrieking echoes against the mountain sky,  
banshee wails imminent  
yet nothing is to be seen.  
I am alone,  
nothing to hand but my fists and curiosity.  
Goony screeches gradually fade away  
to another mountainside  
but never cease until I am back at the far-off road.  
Next day's county paper headlines read  
"Rabid bobcat attacks young girl"  
and I wish I could scream on the mountainsides,  
blaming it on rabies.