2012

Hard at Work

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Recommended Citation

Pelletier, Lorien (2012) "Hard at Work," The Promethean: Vol. 20 : Iss. 1 , Article 3.
Available at: http://commons.cu-portland.edu/promethean/vol20/iss1/3

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maneuver his limp weight into a rubber covered dining room chair. As she reaches for the belts she keeps on the dining room table, she swats a fly away from her ear. With great care, she straps his lifeless body into a sitting position. Linda hates when he falls forward and dips his face into his dinner. At the beautifully set table, she looks lovingly through the candle centerpiece into Frank's rotting sockets. She tells him about her day, her trip to the grocery store, her hair appointment, and Linda feels like he is really listening.

Getting Frank up the stairs to bed is always the hardest part of Linda's day. When his body had been cold and stiff, she could pull him along like a giant suitcase. Now that he has become squishy with decomposition, she wraps him in a clear drop cloth and climbs the 14 stairs to the bedroom. Tonight his extremities are too limp to maneuver into pajamas, so she dresses Frank in his favorite night shirt and tucks him into his side of the bed with a kiss on the forehead. As she falls asleep, Linda can hear a fly bumping uselessly against the glass of her bedroom window until it is silent. She will clean up its tiny corpse in the morning.