

Trauma as “the bedrock of hysteria”

Ellie Lamothe

Volume 40, Number 1, Fall 2019

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1066424ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1066424ar>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

Mount Saint Vincent University

ISSN

1715-0698 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this document

Lamothe, E. (2019). Trauma as “the bedrock of hysteria”. *Atlantis*, 40(1), 68–68.
<https://doi.org/10.7202/1066424ar>

Trauma as “the bedrock of hysteria”

i am teaching my body you are not a threat
not every man is a minefield
i must be wary of
balancing on a ledge with my delirium
the way the moon dips its toes into the pale blue

i am unsure who taught me
to medicalize the violence
with its starving, sticky tendrils
around my tendons
i know when trauma blooms inside me and my blood boils
you do not degrade me
for not being saccharine

i am done being the sacramental bread
for the dull teeth of men
who are half eulogy
who cannot keep themselves full

i am working on integrating the fractured parts of me
howl
caught in my throat
mouth full of cherry laughter
my body as a vessel for shame
and solace
and thrills

i am more than coral skin
and accidents

i am a vastness

Ellie Lamothe is a sociology student at Mount Saint Vincent University, an activist, a poet, and the founding editor of *Laurels & Bells Literary Journal*. She’s passionate about feminism, collective healing, and working to end gender-based violence. Her poetry has appeared in *Glass: A Journal of Poetry* (Poets Resist), *Yes Poetry*, and *Ghost City Review*.