

2016

Remembering Mom

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Recommended Citation

Baranow, Joan (2016) "Remembering Mom," *The Tuxedo Archives*: Vol. 2008 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://scholar.dominican.edu/tuxedolit/vol2008/iss2/2>

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Remembering Mom

by Joan Baranow

Rain. Real rain
so that I ran out to close
the car windows.

At first the ground
sipped it with a strange
sound, like rubber-soled shoes
skidding on a gym floor.

I had been asleep, almost,
not believing it could rain here
in July
though the sky

had been filling itself all day
like a child carefully coloring
a paper sky with gray clouds,

which is how I now imagine it—

a child gripping a crayon
intent on his work
and then tearing it up.

And then, my mind
goes again to you
in the ground, getting wet.