

Homecoming Ritual

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I shivered as my cold body encountered the warmth of my apartment, and I closed the door against the winter. I stomped the snow from my boots and untied them with numb fingers, kicked the boots into the closet, shrugged off my jacket and threw it on the back of the chair. Tuque and wool gloves I threw on the thing as I walked by, removed my keys and wallet and put them on the other thing on my way to the hall. I was so eager for warmth that I was just leaving everything everywhere, which I vowed ten thousand times not to do because then I can't find anything.

My fingers and toes had that painful numb thaw feeling as I pulled off my socks and threw them somewhere that seemed totally appropriate. I'd pick them up later. My shirt was unbuttoned by the time I reached the thermostat and turned it up to 74 (why are these things in Fahrenheit?). I hung my shirt on the thermostat.

I took an empty ice cream bucket out of the recycling bin, then I took off my pants, rolled them up, put the denim bundle in the ice cream container, filled the container with filtered water, and put it in the freezer. Future pantsicle. Removed my underwear and shoved them inside one of my boots.

Now my stuff was everywhere in the apartment and I realized that I had perpetuated that same old absent-minded habit. I couldn't help but laugh. "I'd lose my head if it wasn't attached," I said. So I removed my head and put it in a cupboard for safe keeping. I peeled off my skin, folded it, and put it in the linen closet. With no skin I was losing lots of blood so I collected the blood in another ice cream bucket (another bad habit... gotta stop eating so much ice cream) and put the bucket safely under my bed where I would surely remember where it was.

While hot bathwater poured into the tub I took out my central nervous system which twitched as I stapled it to the back of the bathroom door. My bones I wrapped in a blanket. Muscles I placed over a heater to warm up.

Then I dropped my soul into a nice, hot bath.