

free

Down in the Dirt
internet magazine
free sampler
<http://scars.tv>

down in the dirt

**revealing all
your dirty
little secrets**

free poetry sampler from
Down in the Dirt
internet magazine

<http://scars.tv>
AlexRand@scars.tv

SCRUTINY

ROCHELLE HOPE MEHR

It is the definition of self.
The defining moment
When you screech the chalk against the blackboard.
Everyone cringes
And the chalk breaks.

They give you the treacle
About being a good sport.
Blending in.
Not going against the grain.
Staying within the lines.

You get up slowly
After retrieving the pieces.
Everyone's gone.
You face the blackboard
And eye what you've done.

THE UNBURDENING

ROCHELLE HOPE MEHR

I know my limitations.
I come here to lay stones.

The bare trees barely notice
As I set down my load and turn their way.

Away from their green plumed neighbors.
Away from the fleshed out.

Hunched and sodden I progress,
My pail heavy with the weight of infinite possibility.

Inside this sling the kitchen table
half hooves, half wings and mountainside
though the doctor says it's how stone
helps my
rest and flowers
slipping off the rocky edges

--it's not the time! you don't yodel
not in the same room, not with the window
open as if words mean nothing now

and still some mountain wail
grabbing those god-awful branches

the way this tablecloth is carried up
and around just one arm the neighbors
even here think you're crazy, your throat
joyous for no reason at all.

*

At night and this beach bathed
as if it had two mothers, half sand
half stench and loving you

till your still soft heart
and the sun survives
by hiding, seeps from the surface

and the devouring light --in the dark
you will learn to splash
sooner than the others

get the jump, each shoulder
rinsed, taught to cool
and this great ocean from inside.

TWO PIECES BY SIMON PERCHIK

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AlexRand@scars.tv

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Editor@scars.tv

<http://scars.tv>

829 Brian Court, Gurnee, IL 60031-3155, USA, Northern Hemisphere,

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<http://scars.tv>
AlexRand@scars.tv