

Pietà

by [Maria Garriott](#) in the [February 8, 2012](#) issue

He roamed quarries at Carrara  
caressing blocks of marble, tracing veins  
like a blind man  
to find the Virgin within. Here,  
the limp arm hangs; here,  
the bent head of the mother;  
here, her murdered son.

He coaxed her from stone  
chiseling in her face the memory of  
Simeon's prophecy of a sword piercing her heart:  
a wholly inadequate portent for this,  
this hammer of death  
harder than marble.