

*Ressentiment et rancoeur:*

A Proposal

by [Sarah Gordon](#) in the [March 2024](#) issue

*Resentment.* Say it.

Perhaps it seethes on shelves  
of memory or grovels around  
the basement, nearly inflaming  
the other rooms in the house.

Perhaps it's the plaque  
that chokes the blood,  
or the residual pox burning  
into shingles, or the small,  
vile tumor discovered  
on the back of your leg.

*Resentment* brings to mind  
a mean and devilish curdling  
of emotions, tight-lipped,  
sometimes flesh-eating.  
May be undiagnosed

for years, an internal acne  
that threads the nerves,  
irrupting as suddenly  
as a pustule of the Black  
Death. You'd better say  
*Ressentiment*.

*Rancoeur, ressentiment.*

More palatable en français,  
n'est-ce pas? *Rancor*.

Can you see or hear  
the heart there? No.

Say *rancoeur*.