

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*.