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## Beautiful Lesson of the I

Frances Brent

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<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/9873>

## THE SILVER SKATES

In the remnant world, across half-frozen canals,  
even the draft horses were lifted upon wide wooden stools.  
Swans hugged the glass collar of a sawed off ice block;  
hills of bare, pendant branches enclosed the painted water like a net.

*I am skating on this unfinished lens,  
balancing my weight against its plate of metal.*

Who sweeps that green  
rim with the marvelous, polishing wheel,  
bathing its stained edges  
in the jeweler's wooden bucket  
of ice-water?