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## Savage Pageant: A Genealogy

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Pleiades: Literature in Context, Volume 40, Issue 2, Summer 2020, pp.  
219-220 (Article)

Published by University of Central Missouri, Department of English  
and Philosophy

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/plc.2020.0173>



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## Jessica Q. Stark

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When                    we were                    little,  
my sisters            (being the youngest, I too)    thought

the pregnant    form    was disgusting.

Nothing is as    plain    or crass    as expecting:

the awkward    roundness

of past sex            on            a body-stage  
and all    that    skin    *x* stretching *x*

What we really wanted    was

combustion                    to burn the deed

around our own real estate.                    What

we really wanted                    was inelegant:

a clean break from                    the spectacle

with gas station snacks  
and water when we needed.

My grandmother had eleven pregnancies and

an infection.

My mother had four                    and wished for boys.



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Sometimes you can't put all the bones  
back where they're supposed to go.

I had a boy and they took you out with a knife.