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2021

### like daughter –

Tali Beckwith-Cohen  
*School of the Arts*

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#### Repository Citation

Beckwith-Cohen, Tali, "like daughter –" (2021). *Sokol High School Literary Awards*. 44.

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*like daughter-*

Tali Beckwith-Cohen

12<sup>th</sup> Grade, School of the Arts

like daughter-

align our fingers on smooth glass. can i, a reflection, earn myself?  
when there's finally air between your hand and mine, will i shatter, or will i earn myself?

was i once young? a fat, squirming thing that you cooed over?  
now all elbows and angles, still wrapped in your arms, i silently pledge to return myself.

i see coals in you, still smoldering, still steaming though long ago doused  
by the tranquil haze of the home you have built. i wonder, will i, too, burn myself?

the crinkle of your squint, the smile of someone who bites back words,  
addicted to your swallow size lessons, i live for the rule of your court. how can i adjourn myself?

thin skin, so easy, so tempting to tear. soft skin, so easy, so tempting to love.  
like a mother like daughter, like heartbeats themselves, in your reflection i learn myself.