

JACQUES J. RANCOURT

Kirby

1990 LIFE photographs by Therese Frare

How could I forget
your wrists
 so thin
your face set against

your father's face
hollowed
 fixed on
something outside

this room? Once I wanted
to be a martyr.

 This Ohio
pieta—two nurses

swapping out two bags
of saline
 a photographer
wiping her lens

with a cloth. And through
the slit

 in the curtain
I can nearly see

your body failing
your spirit
 in equal measures
growing larger

as only someone
who did not live
 through this
could possibly see.