

2021

Watching through the Glass Coffin of the Gallagher Man

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Recommended Citation

Berman, Lauren (2021) "Watching through the Glass Coffin of the Gallagher Man," *Ellipsis*: Vol. 46 , Article 2.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46428/ejail.46.02>
Available at: <https://scholarworks.uno.edu/ellipsis/vol46/iss1/2>

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**2020 Vassar Miller Poetry Award
Honorable Mention**

**Watching Through the Glass Coffin of the Gallagher Man
by Lauren Berman**

Fetal, crossed arms at his chest,
face crushed, turned outwards,
his teeth settle as sediment
at the back of his throat.

I sit here my eyes trapped
in the leather of his skin,
how it falls back and twists fraying
from his bones.
Like bark, he morphs
now a tree elemental in a glass box.
His death a sacrifice to shift the season to spring.
All our faces like stars bore through
the folds in his flesh.