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...Nicked Myself Shaving Last Night

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...Nicked Myself Shaving Last Night—

Eleanor Mund (Musical Theater and English 2026)

a flickering light blinks above
my phone screams midnight
as I prop my leg up on a plastic white shelf
I didn't want to do this tonight
because I'm lazy—
or defiant—
or something else—
who knows.
but I have the razor
rusty though it may be
and the sickly sweet shaving cream stares me down
in its hot pink bottle: made for women just like me!
so! why not?
I try to go slowly
(DON'T shave your ankles, mom told me. you'll nick yourself and your hair is
already light, nobody will notice)
but I'm impatient and so is that razor
I really should have thrown it out a week ago
shouldn't I have?
it glides across my skin with inconsequential ease
slicing through the thick foam of gel that smells like dying flowers and femininity
it creates little globular patterns on my unevenly fuzzy legs
and I distract myself with the mumbling commentary in my head...
I think I'm almost done with the left when I notice a bead of red on that stupid
pink blade—\$10 for a pack of four.
I let out a groan as my ankle runs red.
mom was right.
I hope it doesn't stain my grandmother's dressing robe.