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Summary:

In the spring of 2019, I wrote an essay, "Unfinished," examining my experiences with anorexia nervosa, which was published in *The Rectangle*, the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society's journal of creative writing, in 2020. From this essay, supported by grant funding through the Undergraduate Awards for Humanistic Inquiry at The University of Scranton, I wrote a chapbook manuscript of poems that attempts to recursively represent my experiences with an eating disorder, as well as the process of recovery in the years that followed my diagnosis. I experimented with several forms of poetry to create this collection in order to show the various ways this disorder has affected me in the past and present and to examine the ways language depicts eating disorders and eating disorder experience, both accurately and inaccurately. Some poems use the original essay as a source text, whereas others expand upon it in new ways (e.g., through erasure and through the creation of personas that formalize the ways body dysmorphia can fracture a speaker's understanding of herself). Ultimately, this project is not about what has been erased or silenced; rather, it is about the agency these speakers discover and create (and that this writer discovers and creates) by using poetics as a tool for recovery and relapse prevention. I will be presenting on this project at the Popular Culture Association National Conference this June.