

Monday, March 1

From **Bluets**

102. After my friend's accident I take care of her. It is always taking care, but it is difficult, because at times to take care of her is also to cause her pain. For two years, to get her in and out of her wheelchair, we have to perform a complicated maneuver called "the transfer." The "transfer" often sends her legs into excruciating spasms, during which time all I can do is press down on them and say, *I'm sorry, I'm so sorry*, until the shaking stops. She has diffuse nerve pain along the surface of her skin which no doctor understands, pain she says makes her skin feel like crinkly, burning Saran Wrap. We look at her skin together as she describes this pain.

103. When the pain is bad it drains her color. When it breaks through the drugs, of which there are many, she says it feels like a scrim goes up between her and the rest of the world. In my mind's eye, I imagine it as an invisible jacket of burn hovering between us.

Maggie Nelson