

## Wilderness House Literary Review 17/1

*Paula Gil-Ordoñez Gomez*

### **Planetless**

**C**armen sweeps rotting crumbs of goldfish under her bed, hides her antidepressants in a corner drawer, and dumps the clothes sprawled across her bedroom into her closet, pressing them against the floorboards. A worn-out hiking sock is left behind, sticking out of an otherwise spotless space, like the single star she watches nightly until her eyes glaze over. When she listens closely, she can hear her sock and star scream for companionship and tenderness. At midnight with a man inside of her, she pictures the affectionate blond boy with scrappy tattoos. She believes that if the world were gentler with her, she would be in love. The men she sleeps with are dense and gorgeous. They say she's magical and she won't tell them otherwise. After they leave wordlessly, she sits by her windowsill and folds her hands firmly into each other. She prays that God will relieve her from self-loathing narcissism. Carmen thinks she's stunning and brilliant, but finds something new to hate about herself every day.