

TYGR: Student Art and Literary Magazine 2018-present

Volume 2020 | Issue 1

Article 34

2020

Brother

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Recommended Citation

McHugh, Alison (2020) "Brother," *TYGR: Student Art and Literary Magazine 2018-present*: Vol. 2020 : Iss. 1 , Article 34.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.olivet.edu/tygr/vol2020/iss1/34>

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lost Boy

aubrey thomson

When my big brother was a scout,
his troop leader called him lost boy.
And no,
it's not because he fought pirates
in Neverland
alongside Peter Pan
I know what you're thinking.

He was called lost boy
because he was always forgetting something:
his jacket

his hat

his this

his that

always something.

His mind was like a snow globe
that someone took
and shook
and jostled all around
sending snow spiraling,
scattering, and
settling on the ground.

He'd try to gather his thoughts
but you can't glue snow back together.
It would always melt in his kind,
warm hands.

The same kind hands that
cradled the bird
with a broken wing
to take it inside
and nurse it back to health—
give it its strength again.

The same warm hands that
in the heat of anger
ripped glasses
from faces that dared
to prick fishing hooks through
the bowed legs of his amphibious friends,
casting out their broken bodies
to serve as bait,
the faces laughing all the while.

Gentleness is not always timid.
Gentleness is a passionate advocate
for the small, the helpless, the lost.

I guess my brother is a lost boy after all
battling bad guys with hooks,
defending his friends with passion
and showing no mercy
to those who have none.

