Regrets in Storage

Chelsea Beatty

St. John Fisher College

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Cover Page Footnote
CHELSEA BEATTY

REGRETS IN STORAGE
AFTER "LONG ISLAND" BY MARVIN BELL

The things I remember, I remember in squares. Shapes of picture frames, capturing moments in time, frozen smiles, laughter, tears eternally unchanged. Shapes of boxes, stored away, holding the remnants of yesterdays—crumpled white jersey, ripped and dirty, dried flowers from lovers’ past, pages of journals documenting some ten years of milestones, heartaches, and joys.

The things I lost, I lost without the promise of return. The baby sister remembered only in the silver frame above the mantel, my heart to the boy with the bright green eyes, the innocence that fades like the smoke with every birthday candle. Gone but not forgotten, pieces of my heart ripped and torn I cling to what is still intact ingrained losses shape me, not defeat me.

The things I regret, I regret most often when I think of the words unsaid, stored forever in the tattered pages smeared in ink and smudged lead. When I recall what just slipped out, forever echoing in my mind. Consequences, contaminated feelings, battered souls, unopened doors, unturned leaves, opportunities passed, regrets in storage, memories still real enough to feel.

ERIN DORNEY

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