

2003

Regrets in Storage

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Recommended Citation

Beatty, Chelsea (2003) "Regrets in Storage," *The Angle*: Vol. 2004: Iss. 2, Article 18.
Available at: <http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/angle/vol2004/iss2/18>

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Cover Page Footnote

Appeared in the issue: Volume 4, Issue 2, 2003.

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