

2003

Shelter

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Recommended Citation

Bird, Jamie (2003) "Shelter," *The Angle*: Vol. 2004: Iss. 2, Article 26.
Available at: <http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/angle/vol2004/iss2/26>

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Cover Page Footnote

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

JAMIE BIRD

SHELTER

There was a maple tree
in the yard where
I grew up. Under its outstretched arms
I would sit, a twig
in my hand, scribbling figures in the dirt,
listening to the hollow tapping;
the soft music of raindrops and leaves.

Somewhere out there I could hear them
screaming and yelling about me,
never calling out to me.

But the tree would swallow that noise;
make those voices

seem distant. And I'd look down
at the scratches — the marks I made
in the dry dirt and continue scribbling.