Indonesia

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Cover Page Footnote

This poem is available in The Angle: http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/angle/vol1997/iss4/3
Childhood with Michelle consisted of many bruises and loss of teeth. She even knocked me unconscious twice. Adolescence wasn't much better and neither was early adulthood. Not sharing love and happiness with Michelle or comforting each other's pain is what I regret the most about our relationship. I wanted her to see my strength and weakness. We are connected from birth to death. Not just friends. Sisters, Alike. I needed her to lead the way for me, and sometimes I still do.

For five years we have lived a thousand miles apart and we just had our first normal conversation this Christmas. "Normal" means that we didn't argue and we actually enjoyed the visit. How ironic that being apart may be what actually may bring us closer together. My wish is that we someday share love and comfort. I have heard, and know it's true, that "No one can love you more or hurt you more than a sister." Maybe she and I can finally put an end to the Swingset War.

--- Suzanne M. Wood

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He was gone before I pulled my first trout from the lake my blue eyes dulled the proud sparkle from my uncle's teeth mother's brother's joy is little next to son's father's recognition

I held the thermometer so close to the desk lamp the day of the father-son picnic that my male chaperone agreed my bed was my place for that day

there were phone calls I would that they were more than my digits over the span of a lifetime

he returned on an airplane for visits from the East a great deed proven by great expense to the name of which I am the last

each talked of our side of the canyon curious of life on the other side but the bridge was broken my penalty sealed

his too for I am now master of my mind what I say and think was born from mother and sister

Some days I become afraid do I not truly know what it is to be a man for how can a woman reduce herself to show me

He wants to fix that bridge believing his vast wealth can cover the cost reducing the experience of a lifetime to a sum

--- Matthew J. McGowan