

Life from the Lake's Perspective

Five years old

Small hands grasping at hidden shells
My late golden retriever splashing in exuberance
My baby sister screeching at the cold spray.

Seven years old

Grieving my flattened sand castle
The waves did not care about my carefully curated structure
Clinging to my mom to escape the unforgiving tide.

Nine years old

The thrill of being allowed to swim without a life jacket
Testing the limits of my pool school knowledge
Cool water against my skin catalyzing the feeling of freedom.

Thirteen years old

Retainer in and tankini on
Grasping at the water-suctioned fabric on my torso
Desperate to hide my newfound awkwardness.

Fifteen years old

Sobbing in the passenger seat of my dad's car
Staring out into the dark horizon through blurred vision
The violent waves a testament to my freshly broken heart.

Sixteen years old

Open windows blowing in the comforting smell of the lake
The adrenaline of driving alone for the first time
Bringing a flush to my already-tanned cheeks.

Seventeen years old

The summer before senior year
Laughing at my childhood friends cartwheeling through the water
Acutely aware of the fleetingness of the moment.

Eighteen years old

Watching the sky turn colors at the passage of yet another day
Feeling comfort in the arms of the lake
Knowing it has seen me through it all

And takes me as I am.