

Fill in the blank: sister

Dear _____,
You had me once and vice versa.
We walked with our flaws and our errors.
Good for each other like rain on cracked grass:
Growth in unison.
Bad like the wake of a violent thunderstorm:
Division crescendo.
Some days I run after you, _____.
Pressure fracturing my sternum,
I inhale sharply but my breath is a step ahead,
One perfect explanation out of reach.
Other days our chase is tentative...
Hesitant but practiced, a slow waltz on
Cracked shells beneath calluses-
Until one is sharper than the rest,
A quick gasp and a startled cry!
Then quiet whispers lingering in the echo
Of a slammed door.
Shhhhh...
If you concentrate, _____
They're still lasting,
Those subtle tones.
Secrets faintly illuminated by flickering night-light:
Midnight bravery.

Dear _____,
Can I place a finger on a moment
When you slipped away?
It wasn't an accident,
Unintentional as we may insist.
Soft lies.
Smooth yet resilient,
Sometimes silent but no less threatening.
My grip was lost on you, _____,
As you slid out slowly...
Slowly over teenaged years.
I walked along the curb
Holding onto you for balance, why-
We were indomitable, you and I.
Until I took you for granted.
_____, I thought I could keep my footing
In a rapidly tilting world
Hurtling through space.

Now my grasp pulls at dead air.
Here is my embrace-
Locked tight with eyes shut,
Closed to the truth:
I am empty handed.

Dear _____,
I look in the glass at sunrise and see you:
Shadow over lids, color coating lips,
Delicate precision with careful calculation.
Your hazel eyes glancing in and away,
Down and back.
There's a precarious smile, a small clue.
So I lean in and confide once more-
Morning courage.
My olive branch thin
As history is brimming with trampled vibrant green
Now faded beneath our scarred feet.
But I extend
And you receive once more.
I see you, _____,
In the selected snapshots:
Years of storytelling, of hushed confessions.
Our development pixilates...
Look back, _____.
Do you see us too?
Posing?
Safe. Still. Inseparable?
Beautiful.

Fill in the blank: confidence