Self Portrait 2018

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College of DuPage

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My dad stands up, towering over us as we sit crouched in our chairs. He turns to me. “Would you like something else to drink?”

“Uh, sure. Another green tea.” I stare at my mother, who has resorted to picking up a newspaper that a former patron left behind. She purses her lips as she reads. When she blinks, I notice her eyes aren’t green at all. They are hazel, more amber than green, reflecting the blouse she is wearing or eye shadow she has on. Today, she is wearing a red t-shirt, and her face is clean of makeup.

I go up to the counter to check on my dad, with the request for my tea to be topped with some ice. The cashier sets down the two drinks and rings my dad up. $8.25. My dad uncreases his wallet, lifts out a $10 bill, and hands it to the cashier. He cherishes the $1.75 he receives as change.

-Julie P. Center

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Photography