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A Miracle

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A Miracle _Mina Pattanaik

Lightning struck twice in our backyard and we didn't blink. Dad picked the branches off the ground and threw them in with the firewood. The sky sat in a bright flash of white for days like we were frozen in heaven or maybe hell. We didn't blink. Dad told us it's no good to dwell so we ignored the burning house. If I close my eyes I can taste the smoke in my lungs and I'm relieved I can taste anything at all. We didn't blink. Dad says lightning won't strike the same spot a third time but before that he said it never strikes twice. I wake up at night to phantom thunderclaps and wonder if this is when I'll die. We didn't blink. We moved on. We don't dwell. The house is ashes now.

I, Mother _BrittanyAnn Schumacher

The one witness to my life	The one witness to my life
Tells me who I am	Someone who really saw me
I have triumphed	I have loved you
And surrendered	And I have lied
I am loyal	I have loved you
And I am ashamed	And sacrificed
Do I nurture hope for the smallest affections?	Do I want to be loved or do I want to feel needed?
For a mother, which parts of myself do I owe?	For a mother, are they the same thing?



Mother-Daughter Bonding, Ink On Paper

_Natalia G. Toreeva