

## Two Poems

**Colin Borgen**

### **If You Turn My Body to Stone**

If you turn my body to stone, leave my pulverized teeth by the lake-shore. They will speak themselves the perfect skipping stone, and when I skim across the water, the bounce will sound like laughter, and the spray will look like a child inner-tubing on the last perfect day of summer. And when I settle into the silt I will look up to see sun-glimmer beneath the waves.

If you turn my body to stone, leave my blinded eyes on the playground. They will stare into the soul of a child and lay bare the most beautiful canvas, and I will be painted white and blue and red and gold. I might win the annual rock-painting competition, and I might lose. And after this endeavor is forgot, I might be left in the rafters of the picnic area, above the smell of the grill and below the battering of the roof.

If you turn my body to stone, leave my conflagrated lungs atop a knoll. They will breathe in the summer grasses and the spring petrichor and the autumn decay and the fresh bite of winter. And when I have had my fill I will save a stumbling hiker, and inertia will gift me one last moment to roll through the dandelions and blow their thousand wishes

across the open prairie.

If you turn my body to stone, leave my calcified heart for you. Drill a hole through my aorta and run a chain through the severance. Wear me at the birthdays and the barbeques and the job interviews and the first dates and the weddings. Pass me down as a story and a myth and surely it's not really—

When you are sad or scared or lonely, when you are quiet at home and when you sleep in that silence, drape me around your neck so I can feel your heartbeat. Let me live a thousand lives and know the one I loved most will always be the one with you.



**Colin Borgen** is a senior majoring in fish and wildlife biology and a certificate in creative writing. He grew up with a love of both the natural world and writing. His stories largely focus on the relationships between people, existentialism, and naturalism.