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To My Only Brother: A Letter

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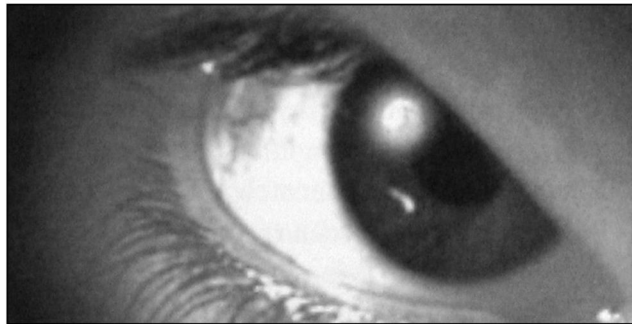
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To My Only Brother: A Letter

by Daniel R. Schwarz

A montage of images of comity, conflict,
haunts my troubled dreams.
We have retreated to fortresses
of mutual suspicion, unyielding pride
built stone by stubborn stone;
It is not that you are Cain, and I Abel.
Yet our boyhood ties
dissolved by an act of betrayal:
the acid of a misdirected letter—
motiveless malignity or green jealousy?—
leaving in my flesh
a still quivering arrow,
a festering wound
twisting memory
into misbegotten shapes.



Photograph (detail) by Joel Kendall

