



Section Intro:

Lost & Found

**When things disappear, are they
always easily found?**

**In the act of losing, sometimes, the
most can be found.**

Loss is an unceasing, steadfast constant in the human journey. No one person is able to escape the kind of heartache or anguish that seems to swallow one whole, pulling one's life apart. While everyone handles grief differently, the difficulty of pulling yourself back together is indisputable. The authors in this section were forced to address their loss to accept an uneasy reality. They have found solace in their loss by letting their stories out and sharing

them with us, allowing storytelling to act as a beacon—its light guiding both its writer, and its readers, to the realizations that *not until we are lost, do we begin to understand ourselves.*

Many of the pieces recount personal perspectives explored during an important time in the lives of the storyteller. They showcase the characters' search for healing amongst battles of pain as they delve further into moments often kept private. In "Spinning," Ryley Bonferraro explores the unbearable desolation found in the death of a loved one and childhood friend. In "Seven-Hour Love," Euzebiusz Wasowicz explores a different kind of heartbreak: the impassioned turmoil of falling in love, and irrevocably losing it. These pieces travel through the past and present, reminding us that there



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<https://unsplash.com/photos/CoD2Q92UaEg>.

is no time frame for dealing with loss. In “Cafés are for Writers,” Thomas Samuel Benko details his personal growth in a self-reflective examination in a café where he spent much of his time trying to interpret his calling in life. In “South City to My Own Anything,” Crisanta Wadhams incorporates the experiences of a close friend in exploring the struggle of retaining one’s identity, culture, and family throughout the pursuit of exceedingly ambitious goals.

Finally, in “Down with the Derg!” Rahel Demissie, narrating her mother’s experiences in tumultuous Ethiopia, offers a raw and poignant story of cultural upheaval and redemption. All of these pieces provide an emotionally charged narrative of second chances, restoration, and hope—even when

it seems perpetually out of sight.

This section unabashedly acknowledges that sometimes we will encounter hurdles and hindrances that we cannot expect. Sometimes, these obstacles incapacitate us for a long time, leaving us feeling helpless and alone. But, at the most unexpected times, people, experiences, and family can help you find yourself. It is our hope that some of these stories will help you get through your own losses as they show you that no matter how bad things may be, communicating your story is the first step in finding a solution. And, perhaps along the way, you will even find the courage to share your own stories with us, too.

—Juliet Dore, Peter Conway,
Elle Ross, and Annie Shi