

# A Place in the Sun

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## Correspondence

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*A young girl with a neurodegenerative disease experienced an acute deterioration and unrecoverable respiratory failure. In her last moments, her father quickly decided to take her outside to a small garden that was immediately accessible from her hospital room. Supporting both her parents in their brave and loving care through these most difficult of circumstances made profound impressions on her neurocritical care team. This included one pediatric neurologist whose own young child had a favorite book about a monster.<sup>1</sup>*

A monster wrote me a letter today  
That said he was coming to take away  
Our one true thing and surely may  
Find my heart in pieces lay.

His vicious task would swallow whole  
Yours and my collective soul  
A vacant, bottomless, blackest hole  
Heartless, he my sweetness stole.

His sick intent clearly to impale  
My chest upon the bluntest nail  
With all my being, resist and rail  
Against the hurt and without fail.

An impossible choice was ours to make  
To risk and fear the highest stake  
My core to the coals he did rake  
Relentless, firm, he came to take.

Not a sound came from your lips  
Into the dark you quickly slipped  
Nothing known could ever outstrip  
Our love but hopeless, unequipped.

How could I sit and merely wait  
For time to pass and make me late  
To recognize your impending fate  
And delay my action to later hate.

So I carried you into the sun  
Wanting to walk, forced to run  
To where we might find just one  
Moment before your time was done.

You left me there, not far behind  
Empty. Crushed. Shattered. Blind.  
Our love the strangest kind of kind  
The best for you that I could find.

## Acknowledgment

To all the parents who have lost a child.

## Publication History

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## Reference

1. "A Monster Wrote Me A Letter" by Nick Bland. Text copyright © Nick Bland, 2005. First published by Scholastic Australia Pty Ltd, 2005.

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