

## 6 Ways of Looking at a Friend

By Thomas Nguyen

1.

Her sapphire eyes  
glare with steel-sharp  
hooks and an ice-flame  
that warms when  
you get close enough.

2.

Lamictal for bipolar disorder  
Abilify for chronic depression  
Zoloft for panic attacks.  
That's all she remembers.

3.

Graduation from still suburb  
to sleepless college city  
severs  
past and present.  
She says, "it's a new start  
for all of us."

4.

You visit and  
see the walls of her room  
closing in on her.  
Crimson wallpaper peels  
to reveal brewing rye  
and soot.  
She tries to stay clean.  
Blood trickles down  
onto sad carpet.

5.

You wonder who's there  
when you're not. Stars float  
in the jet-black ink of sky  
to light the way.  
You never consider the fact  
that she chooses  
her own path.

6.  
Sometimes you forget  
that other people  
have places to go.

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**Thomas Nguyen is an aspiring physician and poet, and currently attends the University of Texas at Austin, where he is a third-year undergraduate student studying Neuroscience and Creative Writing. He has previously been published in The Healing Muse.**

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