

# Studio One

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Volume 39

Article 6

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2014

## Afterthought for Stefan

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### Recommended Citation

Swan, Marc (2014) "Afterthought for Stefan," *Studio One*: Vol. 39, 13.

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## **Afterthought**

*for Stefan*

When the angel calls  
will you be ready  
or will you be in the condo  
by the water's edge, sun  
peeping over the horizon,  
wind five knots out of the south,  
an easy breeze and the light  
getting brighter in the eastern sky  
then it hits you, slowly at first  
and in a way  
you don't quite understand—  
a tightening in your chest,  
difficulty drawing the next breath.  
Your mind on so many things:  
your son looking for work,  
your other son finding work  
that you know is just  
one small step  
in his life plan, and your wife  
of all these years in the kitchen  
brewing a fresh pot, humming softly  
to herself.  
In an instant the earthly life  
you've grown  
to appreciate, to love actually  
in its many shapes and forms,  
slips away.

-Marc Swan  
Portland, Maine