

2018

75th Birthday

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Recommended Citation

McCann, Janet (2018) "75th Birthday," *Studio One*: Vol. 43, 16.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/studio_one/vol43/iss1/6

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75th BIRTHDAY

My dog knows how to operate
my old lounge chair—
knows if she rubs her furry side along
the arm lever, the foot rest pops up.
She knows that whatever I was about to do
will be put off and I will sit here
with my notebook and pen to enjoy the chair.

I see my knobby feet in front of me;
the TV hums between channels
and the book I put aside is on the floor.
I explain to my dog my philosophy,
rubbing her back, while she chews thoughtfully
on her paw. The house creaks, acorns
fall with little pops on the roof. Being alone is fine,
if you're not alone alone.

-Janet McCann
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