

# Studio One

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Volume 43

Article 6

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2018

## 75th Birthday

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### Recommended Citation

McCann, Janet (2018) "75th Birthday," *Studio One*: Vol. 43, 16.

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## 75<sup>th</sup> 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  
College Station, TX