



Connecticut River Review • 2026

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Katina Cremona

I Can Write Beyond My Brother

Beyond his beat-up bike he'd pawn for cash buy enough
 drugs to kill himself pile these failures
 onto his shames. Beyond his bruising heroin
 withdrawals on the back of *this time* Sydney
 or Ko Samui or his band would save him
 only to succumb two days later.

He was the churning secret of our family.
People would quip to my parents:

We didn't know you had another son.

They'd read the mood never raise the topic again.

I once defined my life by his desolation.

I would stake my body in front of bullies stop them
beating him up on the walk home from school.

Plead with the judge not to jail him for driving
while high into a pedestrian on a crossing. Beg
our father to stop thumping him into nothingness. Obsess
about his frenzied phone calls insatiable hunger
for money drug limbo his name carved in neon.

Torment myself that I didn't talk to him enough
didn't bear his pain enough didn't see him in Fuchu jail.

Now fifteen years after his suicide

I only have poems to save him.