

# Fishladder: A Student Journal of Art and Writing

---

Volume 14  
Issue 1 4/01/2016

Article 26

---

2016

## Overdose

Samantha Stebbins  
*Grand Valley State University*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/fishladder>

---

### Recommended Citation

Stebbins, Samantha (2016) "Overdose," *Fishladder: A Student Journal of Art and Writing*: Vol. 14: Iss. 1, Article 26.  
Available at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/fishladder/vol14/iss1/26>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fishladder: A Student Journal of Art and Writing by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@gvsu.edu](mailto:scholarworks@gvsu.edu).

---

*Samantha Stebbins*

## Overdose

Sometimes, I think I am thirteen again,  
sitting in the lobby of my junior high  
on the substantial wooden bench,  
holding my best friend's hand. He is  
drooling, god, it's disgusting,  
and wide-eyed. I ask him what's wrong, he struggles  
to twist his slack-jawed mouth into the right words,  
manages to tumble out something about pills.  
His eyes, more bloodshot pink than blue,  
roll backwards into his waiting skull  
every time the eyelids travel slow down to cover them,  
stay shut for just barely too long. He shakes.  
A teacher walks past,  
doesn't notice us sitting on the bench.  
I think about telling her, but keep holding his hand,  
yellow and limp, and wait in silence  
for my mom to pick me up from school.

They teach you how to Just Say No but  
they don't teach you how to tell if someone is dying.  
A week later he'll call me from the hospital.  
We will both say we're sorry and  
I will cry alone in my bedroom,  
fingers laced together,  
shaking, holding my own hand.