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Mqndr

Loren Mixon

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**Mqndr | Loren Mixon**  
POETRY EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD

*I want to work with bones and stuff*  
3:54 text— my advice requested

*Is a 3.426 a good GPA?*  
5:43 text— she strives to prove mom wrong

*Sending you Miranda-love!*  
[picture of a clown]  
9:21 text— to scare me and induce laughter

We found *Mqndr* scribbled on macaroni framed artifacts—piled upon each other in matching flannel whispering to me at Christmas that as a child she pitied the letter, abandoned and underused, bastardizing her name to create a home for the lonely Q

Bone sisters, more than blood, connected by vexatious vertebra stacked to support and strengthen.  
As pinched disks creak and groan, she swats it away with warmth of a curved cushion curled around her neck—a humiliating tear smeared on her cheek, she forces the betraying body to smile, denying its power in false ocular floods.

She is my sister-in-spine, with shushed determination, and the loudest love I get.

**Sensitivity | Alexis Howard**  
ART EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD  
Digital photography