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## Hope

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### Author Bio

Hannah Lindert is a Junior at Gettysburg College and majors in English with a concentration in writing with minors in Political Science and WGS.

# Hope

HANNAH C. LINDERT

Hawks  
haven't always held meaning  
to my mother.  
There was a time  
when she would look at one  
and not think of it as a messenger sent  
from above.  
There was a time when they were  
just pretty birds,  
majestic  
as they flew through the sky.

But now,  
every time she sees one,  
she smiles  
and winks  
and says hi to Hope.

The day my mother lost her second daughter,  
she looked out her window and saw a hawk  
sitting on a branch.  
She said it bowed its head  
before it flew away.  
And from that moment on,  
she knew that Hope would never truly leave her.

I was two when hawks became  
Hope  
and cannot remember a time before that,  
when they were just beautiful birds  
soaring through the sky.

My mother taught me those birds were magic.  
That they were sent to watch over me  
protect me.  
That they were Hope herself.  
They show up everywhere.

They show up everywhere.  
Always watching,  
as if cherishing the good times  
and saving me from the bad:  
on the drive to school,  
on a telephone line after a car crash,  
flying high over my graduation,  
perched on the foul pole at my first  
collegiate game.

They bring comfort,  
and always a little bit of sadness when spotted.  
But I smile nonetheless  
because those hawks bring me  
Hope.