



THE MERCURY

THE STUDENT ART & LITERARY MAGAZINE OF GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

Year 2008

Article 21

1-1-2008

Invincibly Vulnerable

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Class of 2009

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Arnold, Jeremy E. (2015) "Invincibly Vulnerable," *The Mercury*: Year 2008, Article 21.

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Keywords

creative writing, poetry

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Jeremy Arnold is a sophomore from Hartford, CT. He runs the wiffleball club on campus, contributes to the Gettysburgian, and works at the college's Writing Center. By his senior year he hopes to acquire an English with Writing major, Political Science minor and Business Concentration.

Invincibly Vulnerable

In the darkness of a room,
Clasping my damp blue pillow over his eyes
My brother rests alone, undisturbed;

Except by the muffled sobs of a woman
Which permeate auburn mahogany
To resonate briefly throughout the couch he calls his bed.

Three hundred thirty-four miles away
I feel my brother toss and turn
Like a sailor stirred by the waves of the sea.

The torn leather beneath him,
Whispers fond memories of mother and father,
Never to meet his eyes again.

Yet still destined to find peace
In a house with two instead of three,
He hides beneath my pillow and falls asleep.

I recall the restless cougar
We found at Brookfield Zoo. Just seven years old,
You stood behind the steel fence, amazed.

As we stared seemingly for hours
The cat swiftly climbed about a steep, remote rock pile
In a replicated habitat he called his home.

You held my hand,
Wondering the whereabouts of his family
And why such a stunning creature should live alone.

As I read to you a plaque pinned on the cougar's fence,
'Abandoned shortly after birth'
Came flowing from my lips.

Your face soon turned to sadness
As you said he should be freed. Clenching the cold steel tighter
You wondered if he would ever be.

This cougar is a strong survivor, I said.
And years later, I believe the same about you.
Time heals, my friend, and one day you shall be free.