

ABSOLUTION

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A Facebook friend Request spun me back
to a memory that I had pushed so far into the past
It was almost like it did not take place
His face...
A profile picture of a boy turned man
And I was trying to understand
Why I received this request
And I must confess
Even when I think of the mess
He made of our friendship
He was still attractive
Just like I had envisioned that he would be
Way back in 9th grade when he was a gentleman
Walking me to every class as a 12th grader
This time in my life seemed to be working in my favor
He knew way more than I did at the time
He was kind
But searching my mind
His kindness fades to black when I think back
To that one night in his pick-up truck
He'd pick me up
On a stroke of luck
My Mom had said okay that day
I was too young to be dating
But on this particular occasion
if I took my younger brother along with us
He had her trust
In his pick-up truck
all I wanted was a kiss goodbye that night
so I sent my brother in the house ahead of me
he stared at me so innocently
pulling me close
I liked him, I liked it
And it was evident in the way that I surrendered with my body leaning towards his
All I wanted to give was an expected kiss, nothing but to be touching but our lips
But then there was a shift
He was holding me much too tight
The stars were out that night

I knew because they were suddenly above me
I could see the wind in the tree
The moon shining down so brightly
to light a way, that day...
I was small, weak, holding on my virginity like a blessing from God
It seemed unbelievably odd
that he was now on top of me
It happened so quickly
Him touching me in private places
Our faces facing each other like a showdown
His saliva like water and the feeling like I was about to drown
And then I found my voice and used it to say, "Stop!"
My hand on the doorknob above my head pushing opened to freedom and shame
Who was the one to blame for this horrible mistake of judgment?
But that was all irrelevant because I had gotten free
Taking my virginity with me
I stopped talking to him;
ignored him like a child who pretends not to hear a parent calling their name
I was ashamed and mad and sad and so glad that nothing more had taken place
I still can see the pleading on his face, at my locker, in the hallway,
on the bus, he kept apologizing
But I was not accepting and soon he gave up
Ase'
But today, I am staring at his friend request and a message in my inbox
I wanted to ask him who was at fault
For his sexual assault
So I accepted the request
Hoping that it wouldn't leave me with regret
And it did not
He had been carrying this day with him for more than years
And now that he has his own kids; he realized what he did
And he'd hoped that I wasn't carrying it with me as well
Said if he had raped me he would have been in jail
He didn't realize that he was committing sexual assault
And it wasn't my fault
We have to educate the boys, girls, women, and men
We talked about how awful things could have been
When I ran into him in a store one day; we embraced
Face to face in a surrender of forgiveness
The only two people there that could have been a witness
To sexual assault
Again he said it was not my fault
We must educate ourselves on self-control

And play a role in educating our community
Sexual assault is the act in which a person
intentionally sexually touches another person without
That person's consent
Or physically forces a person to engage in a sexual act against their will
And another apology is what he had to give
I accepted his apology
As we stood face to face
As we embraced again
Innocently
I remembered him to be kind
A man now, willing to apologize for his mistake
A weight
Now lifted
With my understanding
And forgiveness