

5-1-2008

Just Then

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Recommended Citation

Perczek, Valerie (2008) "Just Then," *Hieroglyphics: the NSU University School Literary Magazine*: Vol. 15, Article 89.
Available at: http://nsuworks.nova.edu/uschool_litmag/vol15/iss1/89

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JUST THEN

VALERIE PERCZEK

I remember when you smiled so big that your cheeks touched
your eyes.

Your bones embraced the form
of a solid azure t-shirt.

We hid in a jungle
like the only two people
on earth,
in that car,
on that road.

The first day I spotted you, we sat on a lunch bench.
you, with your long brown hair, a messenger bag hanging from
your shoulder,

me, the new kid, short, purple-haired
Chubby from the summer.

I wished to show you my heart and
hear yours
pumping, flump-flumping
up against my ear.

I learned the shape of your body.

Your feet are
tenacious
as they hold
this rough earth.

A thousand memories
float between us.

Each of us
a vessel of a different kind.

Fumbling down a line of images that pass like people running by,
something taught me,
and so I learned.