

## Atmosphere "Mother's Day"

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[Slug]

She lost one to pneumonia, gave the other to prison  
and now she spends mother's day sitting in her kitchen  
Looking at the pictures of her past felt surreal  
She had a couple of people, some friends that helped  
her heal  
But days like today, she doesn't want to be a bother  
and as far as she's concerned, them boys didn't have a  
father  
Nuh uh, she had to teach 'em the ways  
Teach 'em how to behave, be brave and even how to  
shave  
Some days it makes her feel like a soldier  
and other times it makes her feel like a failure  
Why did the stronger one die from a cold, huh?  
Why did the smarter one end up in jail? Nah  
She gave them boys everything that she could  
Two full-time jobs to keep 'em in a good neighborhood  
They understood how to love and how to live  
Now she doesn't understand how it comes down to this  
Maybe she should go work in her yard  
and take her mind off the past and try to let the days  
start  
But she's waiting on one of those annual calls  
while she's looking at the photos on her hallway walls

[Slug]

His big sibling died, and mom's by herself  
and now he spends every day inside of that cell  
Looking at the photos of his past makes him crash  
So he never takes 'em out that folder under his  
mattress  
Days like today he doesn't think about what happened,  
no  
Still gotta call mommy, wish her a happy one  
Uh huh, mom, if only she'd had been around  
Maybe big brother would still be living now  
Some days it makes him feel like a traitor  
and other times it makes him feel like a martyr  
Seems like some displacement of anger  
Seems like he blames her more than his father  
She was gone all the time at work

Never around to play the part of the police or the nurse  
She understood how things fall apart  
So why'd she let the nest hit the ground this hard?  
Well maybe he should go walk in the yard  
and take his mind off the past and try to let the days  
start  
Cause it's so difficult to admit it's his fault  
when he's looking at the faces in his hallway walls

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