

ABSTRACT

MISSING MAN

This thesis is not so much a collection of chapters or essays as it is an earnest search for my father, for the meaning of loss, and for forgiveness. Each piece in this thesis shines a light on the missing man, illuminating his character and relationships so that every piece tells its own story. In many ways, this thesis is a puzzle. You know how puzzles work: you pick up a corner featuring a few red flowers, and you hold that image in your hand; but you know the flowers are just one part of the larger scene, and you continue hunting for the pieces that will lock together to tell the whole story. And while pieces of my father's story are lost with him, parts of his story remain in these pages and in the memories and imaginations of those left to make sense of the empty spaces.

Carol Claassen
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