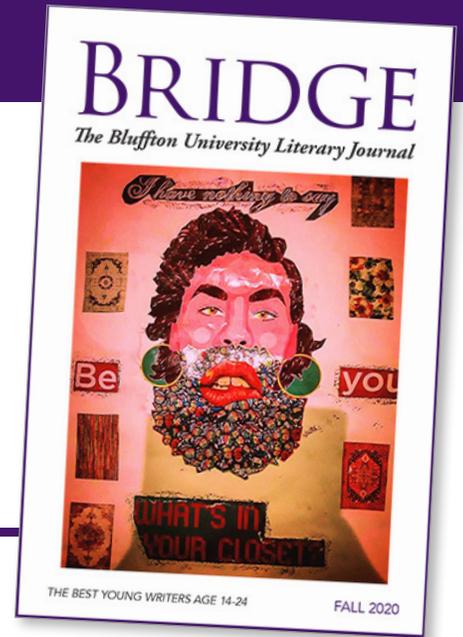


BRIDGE

The Bluffton University Literary Journal



GIRL TALK

Bridget Van Houtem

A bottle of red nail polish for me
and a pale purple one for you

We sit at the table,
paper towels underneath our identical hands,
brushing our nails with the colors
like girls at a slumber party,
and we talk about your life before Papa

How free you must have felt, Mama,
before that lilac-coated finger
was strangled by a golden ring

BRIDGET VAN

HOUTEM resides in Pittsburgh, PA while attending Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School studying Writing and Publishing. As a staff member on BatCat Press she edits upcoming publications and practices the art of letter pressing. She is also a writer for her school's play production company, Ensemble Immersion. Bridget is published in *Pulp* and *Garfield Lake Review*.