Hawaii, 1977

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In my album she'll always be eighteen, uncentered, sitting on the grass, cradling her knees. Here, Mauna Loa is beyond foliage that crowds the photo's flat surface. Beyond the trees, freshwater springs, clouded terrain. But this time she seems to balance the snapshot's edge, the dark basalt under the green crust, and I struggle to keep her steadfast, poised, not turbulent nor skittish, not like the startled herons erupting into wet air as the camera clicked.

-Susan Wylie