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### Agape in A Minor

My siblings have always been my air. When I moved out of my parents' house, the most difficult part was knowing that I would be gone from their lives after so many years of raising them. Eldest daughter syndrome followed me every step of the way in life and throughout the years since I have been living on my own, saying goodbye was the hardest thing that I had to do. On the other hand, the easiest thing has been choosing to make a home for my little brother.

It was just like any other day when I got the call. Home no longer served Chris' needs and he wasn't finding the safety and security that was necessary. Of course, without thinking twice about it, I told him that he could come live with me. It was a big change, yes. He would be two-thousand miles away from home and I would be a new adult taking in a teenager to raise and house. It would be a challenge and I knew that he would drive me insane as he had when I lived with him before, but this challenge was one that I was willing to take head on. The very least I could do was grant him the right to exist.

The simple act of being is a chaotic mess of twists and turns that never cease to surprise. Every path that I have taken has led me to new lessons, new adventures, and new ways to grow. Through it all, I have maintained the belief that wherever I am in life is exactly where I need to be. This remained my view when it came to my younger brother. This position that I was in, the

life that I was building, all of it allowed me to take him in and continue to give him the unconditional love I promised to him.

To live and to be are two things that come with surprises and unexpected sacrifices. Life finds you when you least expect it and it lays out challenges you could have never imagined. The young teenager that packed up in the night to leave my parents' home could have never imagined coming back to take one of my siblings with me. Of course, life had other plans for me and they are experiences that I would not trade for the world.

The beauty of being young, ambitious, and determined is that I can look into the mouth of the beast and still find hope. Working full-time, going to school, and raising a teenager when you are still discovering who you are all at the same time is not an easy path. Still, I remain firm in my belief that all that is happening now is preparing me for the future. I am exactly where I need to be to love and support my brother and the person that I become from here will be someone who will look back at this decision and nod knowing that there are no regrets.

I am certain that I will do everything in my power to bring this teenager love. I know there will be places where I failed and we will talk about it when he feels ready to tell me and it will hardly be a perfect and neat journey. There will be many things that he will vocalize to me when he decides it is time to and I will listen and know I did my best. Though it wasn't perfect, it created a space where he was able to come to me regardless and let me know what was missing. In the end, I will still have made a decision that I could never regret any more than the moment I looked upon him as a baby and knew that I would love him forever. I will have given us both home.