

2020BradshawMadison-abstract

## Abstract

The past four years I have been whole-heartedly devoted to two things, my education as an artist and the empowerment of women in the collegiate environment. From the very beginning, I marched down both paths confidently. I pledged a sorority in the first few weeks of college and met my mentor, Jennifer Blackmer, to ask how to go about becoming a writer. Four years later, I decided it was time to bring all my worlds together. *SISTER* is the culmination of these transformative years in my education, my artistic career, and my personal growth. As a writer, I want to tell stories about the world and the people that I've come to know. I wanted to present the women that I have grown to know and love, the women that changed my life and saved it, as they are. As an artist and a feminist, I believe that in order for perceptions to change, we need to tell it like it is. These women are tough, broken, funny, a little silly, smart, fierce, and painfully, beautifully, human. I have endeavored to exchange the stereotypical sorority girl story, both in my creative work and my personal experience, with a more brutally honest one, and in doing so, I have learned what it really means to be a sister.

Trigger Warning: This document contains real and fictional stories about sexual assault, mental illness, suicide, and death.

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