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Quit Watching Me

Madeline Lytle

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Quit Watching Me

OIL PAINTING BY MADELINE LYTLE

I spent an entire summer working at a camp in the mountains of Northern Utah, where I was constantly surrounded by aspen trees. Their eye-shaped markings made me feel watched everywhere I went.

During this time, I also felt very watched and judged by the people in my life when all I wanted was some peace and privacy.

But I quickly learned that eyes watching me could be protective and loving, and the knowledge that I'm not alone soon became my greatest comfort instead of my worst fear.