

## ALISON STONE

### *ASPERGER'S*

As a girl I was awed by his ease  
with algebra and actors' birthdays. Sage  
of monster trivia, pariah among peers  
who pushed him and tore pages  
from his books. Terrified, I sucked grape  
popsicles beside him on the grease-  
stained couch as families fled Rodan's grasp  
or Godzilla flattened cities and spare  
characters. Dubbed voices misaligned as the gears  
in his brain. Calm always pass-  
ing. Childhood tasted like my brother's rage.