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## My Back-Up

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# MY BACK-UP

*Grace Hogue*

While the threatening fire flashed before me,  
She stood behind me, never backing down.  
The fear within me felt almost as heavy  
as the breathing apparatus on my back.  
As I stared at the bolting flames,  
And shifted the nozzle in my gloved hand,  
Sweat rolled down my cheek,  
While unable to turn my eyes away  
From the enormous pillar of smoke and blaze.  
My backup knew I was nervous,  
And gave quiet urge with her eyes,  
Expressing her faith in me.  
Most friends give smiles and advice,  
But some friends are extraordinary.  
She comes with kind embraces after a car crash,  
And listens to the ramblings of excitement and drama,  
And demonstrates accomplishments with perseverance  
Many desire a friend who listens without judgment.  
Who shares a shoulder and a hope,  
Supporting foolish dreams.  
Provides back up in life, always at your side.  
Who emphasizes your achievements,

While never putting you down for your failures.  
Giving her heart in humble expressions.  
For me, that friend is my mother.  
From those eyes of encouragement, I received the strength  
Which I have always seen in her,  
And which she has always pointed out in me.  
From that strength, the flame was extinguished.  
Whether before the flame or trial,  
I wrestled the challenge with victory,  
As long as my backup is my mom.

