

# Zero

by [Mike Spikes](#) in the [February 22, 2011](#) issue

Zero isn't nothing.  
My father,  
a mathematician,  
insisted on that.  
When he helped me with my homework  
and I said it was  
his eyes would steady, voice grow stern.  
He'd correct me,  
try his best to make me understand.  
I couldn't comprehend  
his reason,  
didn't really care.  
What difference did it make?  
Twenty years later  
and she is gone.  
Now I know.  
I'm up to my eyes  
in the shadow-black heart of it.