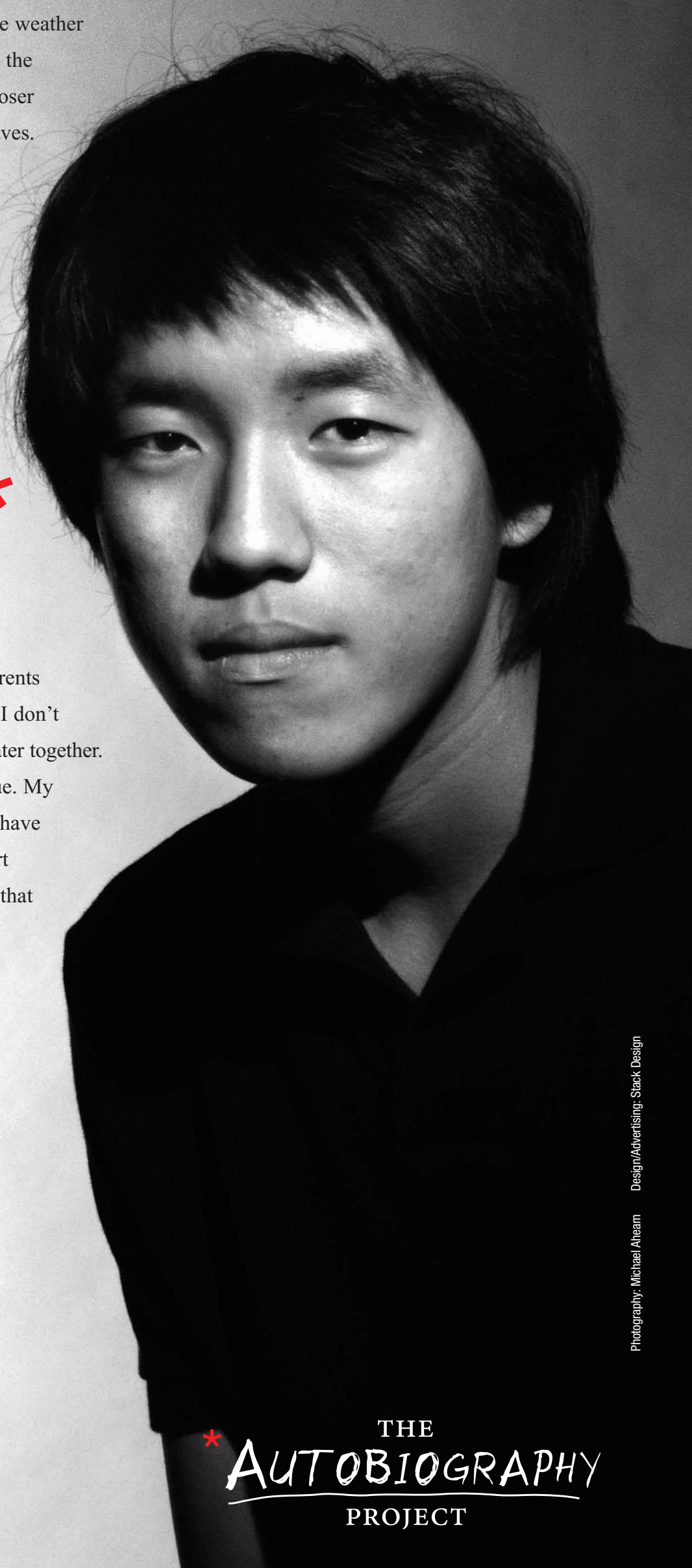


My brother is four years younger than me. For my brother and me, four years was not much of a difference. We fought with each other and played together. I didn't mean to, but ever since he was little, I often hurt him. Sometimes he got burned while I was cooking, and at other times he got hurt by my toys such as a top. The most embarrassing accident happened when I was nine and he was five. My family went to a beach. The weather was so bad that there wasn't anyone else at the beach. Dark clouds covered the sky. The waves and weather were rough. My brother and I decided to go closer to see the waves. While our parents were talking, we were watching the waves. Suddenly, with a strong wind gust, a huge wave came at us. Instinctively,

SON. BIG BROTHER. NEWCOMER. AUTOBIOGRAPHER.*

I ran to my parents as fast as I could, and then I realized that I had left my brother behind. I looked back. The scene is still vivid in my memory. The enormous wave just swallowed my brother and he disappeared. My parents were devastated. Although my father cannot swim, he jumped into the sea. I don't remember how he got hold of my brother. Somehow they came out of the water together. White salt covered their shivering bodies and their lips were tinted with blue. My brother is still afraid of water and isn't willing to swim even now. I should have taken good care of him but I didn't. Although I remember many times I hurt him and his feelings, I don't think I ever said that I was sorry to him. Now that I am living far away from him, I've realized that he is a big part of my life.

– Jinwon Jong



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THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY
PROJECT

Photography: Michael Ahearn
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The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin is the most widely published autobiography of all time. In honor of Franklin's 300th birthday, the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary and *One Book, One Philadelphia* invited today's Philadelphians to submit memoirs of their own, using no more than 300 words. At the end of the project – May 17, 2006 – a panel of judges selected twenty autobiographies to appear on bus shelters throughout the city. Visit www.theautobiographyproject.com for more information about the project, and to read more Philadelphia stories.

The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary is a non-profit organization established to mark the 300-year anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth. *One Book, One Philadelphia* is a project of the Mayor's Office and the Free Library of Philadelphia.



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