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## Letters

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# Letters

Veronica Shukin

dear Overachiever, just take a breather.  
 Be a little more mainstream, little less pipedream.  
 ‘Stead of fishin’ in the jet stream, join somebody’s sports team.  
 Hey daydreamer, listen up: reality’s still here.  
 Your desire to be clever is holding you back.  
 Maybe, if your thoughts matched mine,  
 we could work together someday.  
 But, that story’s been and done.  
 Now the truth’s the only way to hide the lies  
 ‘cause you twisted the meaning to better your cause,  
 and you told all the kids that “if you can’t make love at a photoshoot  
 then you can’t make love in a war  
 ‘cause life isn’t freshman English class.  
 So don’t write another boring song  
 about someone else’s life.”  
 And that was all with help and love from another who’s collecting herself  
 from bits of others and cautious dares  
 to do something bold and to overachieve  
 who’ll for once in her life  
 not take a breather, from Underachiever

dear Underachiever, I’m taking that breather.  
 Living in yesterday’s tomorrow, not asking for time to borrow.  
 If my minutes weren’t so wasted, like kids in a bar,  
 naturally, my bittersweet informal wishes, made at every other chance,  
 would be reached and given up  
 for a second “better” chance.  
 Hey dream-maker, pay attention: this came from your advice.  
 These snapshots of imagination should be  
 reinvented like the wheel, torn up, and used again.  
 But, only if it’s worth the risk of being told you’re average,  
 like the length of your Levi’s or that girl you didn’t like.  
 ‘Cause I also told the kids: “never believe a boring love song  
 that seems too out of place. Cliché and in-demand means everything today.  
 Upperclassmen of Thinking realized this so long ago: if it won’t be monumental,  
 do it someway else.”  
 Lies that can be hidden, or, better yet, un-did, always do turn up somehow.  
 And, you’re right, my cause was indeed improved.  
 So, read this with several grains of salt, and, believe me: I’m saying this from the  
 perspective of a writer,  
 and a teaser, and a “yet to be discovered”  
 who’s ruining her breather, from Overachiever

dear Overachiever, so much for your breather.  
Look at you sinking: over-thinking under-thinking.  
If you didn't run towards the stars, like one struck in a moment of "I have potential," then,  
potentially, you, assuming you would, could not waste those minutes in the bars of your mind.  
A wish such as this is likely more a heart-felt prayer  
and said quickly out of need, but, is rather completely lacking faith.  
Hey dream-chaser: take a hint: success - it only holds so strong.  
Pictures are never average, instead they're simply done completely wrong,  
like a toddler tying laces, or a preteen's sloppy kiss.  
What you didn't tell the kids was that  
"boring is what is interesting, minus everything important.  
Therefore, never test your thoughts and feelings more than you have studied  
'cause if you're unprepared, it's no better than un-important."  
Truth is always enough, unless not everyone agrees.  
And twisting beliefs is like twisting friends:  
not always mutual,  
and tends to end in shame,  
like a game, lost, even after cheating.  
Taken with that understanding, a little extra salt, and love,  
keep shooting for that breather, from Underachiever.