

Dear and the Headlights "Grace"

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Shaking my teeth loose on your table
The dullest white squares I'll never be
Now that you've picked each one apart
You can't look at me
I'll probably lose you now
But at least the ones I have still sparkle

Putting on your make-up everyday
Before he wakes just so he can
Stomach your face now,
Easier than he could without,
Yeah, this is love, this is all
That you could want
Open equals heavier

Hold your hand out palm side up
Open, empty, light enough
Minutes all turn to months
This is one thing we have all learned
Equations make a sum but it doesn't add up

Signing up for that second semester
Cause you won't marry me without the degree
Once I fix things up right you won't
Be so embarrassed of me
I'll never make it now,
But at least looking in the mirror won't feel like lying
Posing for your stilted vision
Academic postcard prison

Raise your chin love
Purge a poem I swore was finished
Heaping lines half chewed unconscious
Settle on a plot, chalk another loss
Stage set for breathing and
Choking on swallowed conversations
Clutching and crawling for constant validation

Still nailed in the ruins of
Corporate co-dependance
Still stuck on the thought
That you're the one exception

All the while just the same
I'm worried that the purpose
Is how I look not how I lived

Let's get dolled up and play pretend
Cuz nothing stays honest when
Every thought is cursed with intent
A pulse covered in skin
And words covered in lips
Taste the regret as it leaves your stomach
Coating your tongue with every noun
Watery eyes the only thing that makes sense now
Spitting your insides out
Start over start over start over

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