Eulogy of a Girl

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ELIZABETH MANCINI

EULOGY OF A GIRL

We gather here today
To mourn the death of a girl;
One who we will miss fervently
For eternity
Her purity will be remembered.
Her small, delicate hand
Remembered being grasped so tightly into yours

We remember scraped knees
Lemonade stands
Mischievous grins.
Suddenly and unexpectedly
Summers turn to autumn
Autumns turn to winter
Winters to spring
So on and so forth
And slowly...

Chocolate covered mouths alter
To lipstick, and Lash-by-Lash mascaraed eyes.
Constantly searching reflections
Complexions
Obsessions with one's self
Confusion about destiny
As memory soars past with its
Silver, transculent wings
And the paper-thin skin of youth
Sheds its original radiance to reveal
Not the empty shell of a child
But a confident, finished
Beautiful
Female.

So, although we mourn the death
Of a girl
Tomorrow let us celebrate
The birth of a woman.