

DIARY OF AN EIGHTH-GRADE PEBBLE (A Collection of Poems)

Evelyn Smith

Dear Diary- A Sewn Heart

A pebble rolled through life
Just another grey drop in the great tide
But she wanted her world to have colour
So she opened her eyes
And she opened her heart
Sewing it to her sleeve

She still rolled through life
A splash of colour in the great tide
She didn't understand yet
Others saw her differently now
She no longer had control
Her words couldn't be unspoken

She longed for the quiet of past
Where people saw her without seeing
Now she was marked as different
Not disliked, but set apart from them
Even when others sewed their hearts,
She couldn't find solidarity



Dear Diary- Hands

Their eyes would cut her skin
As she pinned her smile to her face
They ignored her tears
She burned when they were around
She wasn't safe when they were near her
But a pebble can't make waves

So she ignored their hands
Threatening to pull away her dignity
Pull away her mask of happiness
Her voice was trapped inside her
She longed to set it free
But you can't hear a pebble drop

Not every person was a danger
But she shrunk inside when they neared
She turned to her helping others
Even when she hurt inside
She propped them up
With feigned strength
But all pebbles wear thin



When she found other pebbles
They planned to make a mountain
And to cut the pulling hands
But they knew it was another mask
They wore solidarity as a shield
Just like how they wore their smiles
But pebbles can't shift the tides

So the pebbles joined the gravel of life
Allowed themselves to be shovelled
By the hands that harmed them
Even when they wanted to shout
Pebbles can't make waves
You can't hear a pebble drop
All pebbles wear thin
And pebbles never shift the tides

Dear Diary- Pride Flags

Colours of the rainbow
They are my pride and shame
They glow from patches and badges
And pour from the flags she holds high
Others eye me with wary and anger
Until the flags grow heavy with scorn



Dear Diary - Your Heart Will Beat On

It is the first day at school

You have your mask in place

"Those people don't deserve love" they say

"Those people aren't right" they say

You block your ears to the cruel words

Your heart beats on

You cast yourself out

Removing your mask of safety to save another

"You should have told me, I deserved to know" they say

"You better not be in love with me" they say

Block your ears to the cruel words

Your heart beats on

You have to shout to counter a cruel mutter

Though people write their own narratives

"Who you are is criminal" they say

"You aren't natural" they say

Block your ears to the cruel words

Your heart beats on



They hurt and harm ones like you
You pray not to be next
“You are not righteous” they say
“You will burn for this” they say
Block your ears to the cruel words
Your heart beats on

It is your last day at school
The ones who hated you whisper as you walk
“You are wrong,” they say
“You are not who you say you are” they say
Block your ears
Your heart will beat on

