

You've Already Won

Gretta Ray

Bagels in cardboard boxes
Northern suburb street parking
Grocery that's vacant at eight AM on a Monday morning
Hot coffee, heavy eyes
AirPods and open skies
Converse and creek trails
And coming to realise
As I walk and tread and trample
Through the trees, mud on my ankles
There's no emotion along this path that I cannot handle
Woolen coats oversized
Each thought I analyse
Cold to the point where you see it before you when you sigh

Dress ups and dinner parties
Backyards and sunburned bodies
James Taylor vinyls and pot plants
And putting off your studies
Cheese boards and blow up pools
Feminist articles
Boyfriends and tattoos
And scented expensive candles
Long roads and rugged coastlines
D&Ms over a white wine
Sleep-ins and beach trips
And losing myself in my mind
Bird watching, turning tide
Tea towels and dishes dried
Siblings suppressing laughter
Parents don't know why we try

Breathe it in, soak it up
All it is, all at once
Ready, set, take the plunge
Being like a sponge
And breathe it in, soak it up
All it is, all at once
Ready, set, take in on
Treat it like it's gonna be gone

Front desks and boarding passes
Wheels up, twelve hours 'til landing
Sunlight that cuts like a knife
Through the clouds into the cabin
"Bring your book to the park"
Pub feed before it's dark
Silk skirts and stories of coworkers rude remarks
Downtown breakfast at diner
"It's how you walk through the fire"
There ain't a stranger in sight that I don't somewhat admire
Museum self-guided tours
Music is mine and it's yours
Whole to the point where you cannot imagine needing more

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Kitchen choreographed dances
Sweet-talk and second chances
Kiss right below your eyes
Swear not to take this night for granted
Sing at the top of your lungs
Dare to try everything once
It only takes looking around to know
You've already won

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