

## Mother Explains Men

by Isabella Wang

You thought she'd be happy  
now that you are doing fine.  
This past summer in bed  
you pictured yourself falling  
out of an open window  
to nowhere—your first summer  
spent away from home.  
She said she wouldn't watch you  
throw your future away,  
waste seventeen years of  
thankless upbringing  
on the impracticalities of writing.  
*If you are going to do it, she says,*  
*leave.* So you did.

*And anyway, she tells you,*  
*you'll never find work as a writer.*

Now, you have four jobs  
and she tells you to quit them,  
says you'll fall  
behind in school,  
that *no men will want to date you*  
*if they see how*  
*you write about your parents.*

Not that you are capable  
of having intimate relationships  
with anyone—you've tried.  
She's the one who made you emotionally scarred,  
you want to tell her that.

Instead, you say over the phone,  
*great, I'll date girls then.*

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