

Reunion

For the 1971 Temple High School Senior Class

Tonight, did you stand in the open door
Hesitant and scan the room
Like you did the first class
The first day of high school
Searching for the friendly face
Someone's eyes to sparkle in recognition
A nod that allowed the doors of an anxious present
To open to the sunlight of a hopeful past?
Look, we saved a seat for you

You are not alone

Each of us wonders if we will be remembered
For the dropped pass in the fourth quarter
Or the stupid gesture we made in the class photo
Where we imagine everyone's eyes still stop
Dismayed and offended
That gap in our knowledge that prompted
The wave of giggles across the classroom
Until it splashed upon the teacher's face
And wiggled there like a beached fish

Does anyone know how far and how hard
The road has been just to get us here?

You are not alone

Like contestants in a television competition
Challenging our talents endurance, and our fears
One by one, we step from behind the curtain
Of our private daily trials into this late stage
Of our present lives and are welcomed here
By each others' applause

We make it this far
We are not alone

Yes some of us should lose weight
Some of us should stop smoking
Some of us must keep working a few years more

Some of us found AA
Some of us still have unrealized dreams
Some of us create new dreams every day
Some of us ache for a lost child
Some of us grieve a spouse
Some of us made one big mistake long ago
Some of us have been washed in underserved love
Some of us did not make it this far
And still they are here in memory's unclosed book

Some of us found God
Some of us walked away
Some of us see the world half empty
Some of us hold cups overflowing
Some of us survive accidents and illness disease and indescribable discomforts
Some of us still dance in spite of it all
Some of us still rock and roll

We are not alone

There stands the friend who helped you master geometry
And there the guy who got you the lifeguard job at the country club
There's the boy or girl you always wanted to kiss
That old friend helped you with that big curl in your hair for prom
Remember the time you laughed so hard with those girls
You peed in the front seat of your car and that made everyone laugh louder.
And those boys stuffed fruits in their brassieres
That girl's favorite song was "Ain't No Mountain High Enough"
Those boys smoked pot and listened to *Atom Heart Mother*
She was the science wiz and added ions or something in her head
He sat next to you in typing class and always beat
You by five words per minute It was infuriating
Isn't that one of the guys who made the principal curse at the pep rally
That gray haired man once looked like a Beach Boy
That composed and mature woman is the goddess
In the white bathing suit you fell in love with one summer
That smiling man really is the friendliest member of the class no joke

You are not alone

We are grateful you stepped through that door
If you wish tell us where you've been
Or where you hope to go
The evening's young and we've only just begun

Lyman Grant
8 October 2016