

I WISH

by Lilian Tate

I wish you knew when you hold my hand that it is connected to my heart in which you carry all that my heart feels on your palms down to your fingertips

I wish you knew when I was 5 I didn't know what it meant when mommy and daddy said "I hate you" to each other, but that they said it a lot

I wish you knew when I was 6 the girls in my class never let me play with them because I wasn't "cool enough"

I wish you knew when I was 7 I figured out they messed up our mom and dad. They filled us up with their faults, throwing in a little extra for us

I wish you knew how I much I want to go back to being 8, playing Barbies with cousins on some crappy apartment hall wall

I wish you knew when I was 9 how much I wanted to be older because they told me "You will understand when you are older"

And for me that was everything, a chance to actually understand – That's all I wanted

I wish you knew when I was 10 I wanted to be pretty like these girls I scroll passed hours on end or the girls on TV that every guy flaunted over

I wish you knew when I was 11 I tried to please everyone, I tried to make everything I did perfect so when people looked at me they didn't see a problem.

A thing to dispose of, a thing to use and throw away. I kind of wished I wasn't a perfectionist, that I could let things just be, that I didn't try as hard but that

I wish me just being me was the greatest gift to give

I wish you knew when I was 12 I wish I didn't talk so much that I wasn't annoying because I had finally learned to shut up

I wish you knew when 13 standards were set. Expectations of me were so high I would stay up to 3am trying to finish

that assignment that I knew was enough because now the clock keeps hitting 3

And I'm still up lying awake, staring at my ceiling questioning every word I wrote

I wish you knew when I was 14. I was one of the boys until my body became a
distraction

Now they tell me not to wear that skirt because the guy on the street wouldn't be able
to control himself,

how everyone in school would call me a tease because if my skirt was too short, then
I'm a slut, that I want the attention

How I want them to grab my ass and tell me how I want it

I wish you knew how I hate that he had so much power over my little arms, that when
he pinned me down and forced himself inside that he would stop and think ...
about how broken I would be after because I was just a little girl who didn't know how
to scream when he always made me feel voiceless

I wish you knew that I didn't want these thoughts to consume me

I wish you knew how much I criticized myself until I was suffocating under my thoughts

I wish you knew how much I felt like time was collapsing
And I was so slow, but so surely losing myself

I wish you knew how much I want my innocence back

I wish you knew how much I want you to love me enough to stay

I wish you knew how much I wanted you to think I was good enough

I wish you knew how much I wished I had the energy

I wish you knew how much these words didn't spill out like the lines to your favorite
song

I wish you knew how much I wanted to go away

I wish you knew I could take back the words I said or ones I didn't

I wish you saw blurriness in my eyes when the a tear will roll down upon my cheek

I wish you knew how much I hated the rain because on the worst day of my life it rained, but how after the rain there's the clearest sun you could hope for

I wish you knew how much I want to tell you that every thought I think I wanted it shared with you

I wish you knew how much I needed to hear growing up that my skin is beautiful, that my hair is natural and didn't need to change for nobody

I wish you knew how my body wasn't only pure untouched, that my body was mine to own a gift to share when I chose

I wish you knew when you hugged me too tight that it reminds me of him because my body doesn't know the difference between the pressure

I wish you knew how badly I just want to be loved