1990

[1] /\s Beautiful as the green light gleam of spring: of 1990: Rachel Rachel and Rachel alone who was not going with as very beautiful: Perhaps ext morning: A rose wrapped y on our front porch: "Rachel:" on a long white plastic stem: mid April e was ugly: fift h grade girl e told Rachel she w oo young to go with a boy: The n in cellophane tied with a ribbon la Was printed on a little card stuck When Rachel saw it: She read it: And ran to the telephone and called all her girl friends: It was the tall boy from Barbados: Shimshir: He looks like Hawaii: And his mother and his grand mother look like New England. And his father: He looks like Afro-Cuba: Rachel looks like Mexico: My wife and I look like New York Jew. Therefore: We all look like California: I asked Rachel if she knew him: Rachel said: "I have been talking to him for two years: Dad:" Now: It has been a week: There have been flowers everyday: He rides up to our front porch on his bike: Hang s his head: Shivers: Lays the flowers on the porch: Rides fast: When never one night in was crying: She was the only fifth grade girl a boy: My wife told Rachel she w oo young to go with a boy: The n in cellophane tied with a ribbon la Was printed on a little card stuck When Rachel saw it: She read it: And ran to the telephone and called all her girl friends: It was the tall boy from Barbados: Shimshir: He looks like Hawaii: And his mother and his grand mother look like New England. And his father: He looks like Afro-Cuba: Rachel looks like Mexico: My wife and I look like New York Jew. Therefore: We all look like California: I asked Rachel if she knew him: Rachel said: "I have been talking to him for two years: Dad:" Now: It has been a week: There have been flowers everyday: He rides up to our front porch on his bike: Hang s his head: Shivers: Lays the flowers on the porch: Rides fast: When never

RACHEL

I see him: I give him a big: Hello: I want him to know how much I really want to like him: Rachel s ays he is embarrassed: Rachel sneers: "You talk too loud, Dad: You are embarassing:" I ask Rachel what: Going with a boy: Means: Going on dates?: No: Getting married?: No: Kissing?: She rolls up her eyes like Betty Boop: Now it is the ninth day: There are two purple flowers in the sun on the porch: I pick up the flowers: I pour water into a vase: I put the vase on the kitchen table: I sleeve up the cellophane from the bottom of the stems: I put the stems in the vase: My daughter Rachel is in Sacramento with her entire school protesting lack of state funding for education: When she comes home tonight I would like to tell her there is no sound of monkeys crying in the trees: But I have to be careful: I don't think that Rachel has ever read any very old Chinese poetry: I am afraid that she might start yelling at me: That What I might call: Elegant ancient chinese crying monkey allusions: Are racist: Yes: To a fifth grade girl in love: Her dear old dad is a zito racist:

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