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Bittersweet Farewells

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Bittersweet Farewells

Liz Harbaugh

Here is the day
We take up our diplomas with pride
I see my parents at the table
 My mother cries
 So does Daddy
 He takes another picture

My friends are here
Enemies, too,
But at this point
Petty rivalries
Don't matter

There is much to come—
Our whole lives are ahead of us!

But at this moment
It seems there is nothing
Beyond these good-byes
A childhood closed
Sidewalk chalk forever
Relegated to the bottom of the closet
Saturday morning cartoons
A distant memory

I see adulthood shining ahead
It will bring so much
But these farewells, to friends so dear
Memories sweet as spring rain
These farewells will
Break my heart