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## I See You

Grace Dawson

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# I See You // Grace Dawson

Joke, and be angry if you want to  
but I see you.

Deny it if you choose, but I know  
I know you better than all the flippant bullshit you throw at  
me  
I know how much you can be.

I see the teacher in you  
The someday playful dad  
The open, uncalculating friend  
I've seen the reluctant lover, afraid to feel uncovered

You are only in a fog.  
A fuck-the-world,  
irresponsible  
haze of not knowing.  
Hesitation and  
muddled inspiration  
all that you put in your own way

I see you waking up  
In the look you give me when you let your guard down  
That provocative glint that you still let slip when I catch your  
eye  
The self-conscious shyness you betray when you look away  
too soon

Laugh at me, go ahead  
giggle and poke me,  
press your fingers against my skin, then  
kiss me into the wall, until  
I forget where we are, and  
there is only you  
and this kiss

Wait

No, that wasn't new  
It was only a dream  
You were always too real to be true

Yet I wake inhaling your rough sweetness that seeped into  
my sleeves,  
and the bruises are still fading, after sinking in.  
Your fingers mar my delicate skin,  
and the marks you made don't lie.  
Even though you aren't mine,  
don't tell me it's not true.  
I see through you.

I see you