



“Fear and Fate” by Michaela Blakestad  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Informal Essay 16-18

### Fear and Fate

Have you ever met someone and just thought about how spending the rest of your life with them would look like? I have. I met this beautiful soul who made me very glad I am into music or I never would have figured out the right words to put out into the universe for them to hear and comprehend, well sometimes on the comprehension part. I have never felt so heard in my life. I could say something that may make no sense to the entire world, yet they hear it and make it make more sense to me than it did when I said it. Waking up and seeing this person in the morning makes it a billion times easier to get through the rest of my day.

Spending my days with them makes me wonder sometimes what forever with them would look like. Probably early mornings and good coffee and a healthy breakfast to start off my day. I'd read a good book and they would be working all through breakfast but we would still find time for ourselves between the seconds and in between the pages. We would go to work and come home and decide between a night out or a night in, but no matter what it would be the best night of our lives, every night.

This whole scenario might seem crazy, as I'm only 16 and well quite frankly, what do I know? There are few things in the world that are certain, but I'm certain that living in my own personal world with this person for the rest of my life would never be a mistake. Now I'm not some hopeless romantic who doesn't comprehend the confines of reality, no I fully understand that there are going to be hard days. There are going to be days where we wake up mad at the world or the world wakes up mad at us, and nothing will seem right. The coffee might be too bitter and the sun won't shine and my favorite shirt might have gotten ruined in the wash, but I have faced more turmoil in my life than I ever thought possible before this exact moment in time, and though I'm sure there is more to come, I know I'll get through it and I know that if anyone could weather the storm and come out the other side still loving me, it's them. Some might wonder how I know that, and to them I say, they are not the calm at the center of the storm. Instead they are the hurricane itself, and if anyone can weather a storm, it's someone whose cosmic mettle is steel and rain and lightning.

People go through life each day enduring heartbreak and loss and life, but sometimes, maybe just once in a lifetime, you meet someone who makes everything seem inconsequential. They provoke this feeling that you could die tomorrow, but if you live today with them, death is nothing. The only problem with this beautiful scenario and this timeless love, is we faced the most common trope the universe has to offer. Right person, wrong time. You see they love me back, but time is the cog in the wheel of one of the most ordinary and world altering love stories I have to offer.

Fear is one of the most debilitating things. Fear keeps us from being stupid and making dumb mistakes and ruining our own lives, but fear also keeps us from making good mistakes. It keeps us from speaking our mind for fear that maybe your words and your feelings aren't reciprocated. Fear makes you lose chances that were once in a lifetime. Fear ruins everything, and fear ruined me. I feared change the way I fear the dark. I run from it, and I hide. I lost the only change I had to get ahead of time because of fear. I hate fear. Who doesn't hate fear at least

once in their lives? If I could have had just 15 seconds of overwhelming bravery, then I would have beat time and beat the universe and I would have everything I wanted. But that's not how it works now is it? So now I'm forced to wait until the universe offers me a second chance, because I am beyond due, and when I get that chance I'm going to forget about fear and forget about everything and I'm going to do the same thing I should have done eons ago.

Have you ever met someone who turned your world upside down in the best way possible? I did. They changed me in a way I still don't fully comprehend. I look in the mirror some days and wonder about the girl staring back. I wonder if I still have a heart left, but then the host of fear I hold inside reminds me that indeed there is still an organ pumping blood to my brain, constantly reminding me about how I've failed and what I have to lose should I take a chance. So yes, I've come to know someone who rewrote the laws of my heart and my mind and changed the path of my life simply by walking on it with me, and one day, that person will understand in all capacities just how much I love them. Just not today.