

Esther Shon

Age: 16, Grade: 11

School Name: Loveless Academic Magnet Program (LAMP) High School, Montgomery, AL

Educator: Helen Lee

Category: Poetry

Beyond Her Reflection

Beyond Her Reflection

A conversation between a princess and her mirror

Mirror mirror, tell me what you see

~

Princess, I see beauty and brains
Locks of silky hair. Doll eyes and heart-shaped painted nails
A burst of purple speckled with blush-like pink
Lavender scent and tinted cheeks

~

Lies, Mirror, stop telling me lies
How dare you feed me these fallacies; you're making me cry
For once, could you give me the truth? tell me what you see
I beg you, Do it for my sanity

pretty, please

~

Princess, I did not lie. You exemplify grace and all things of glory
Like a wildflower surrounded by weeds, you stick out with a beauty
But you are more than just your reflection
Oh, I can see through your painted face
my dear, you're broken

~

Who hurt you, princess,
Did the prince never arrive? Does the glass slipper not fit?
Is your dress the wrong color? What is it?

I feel scared dear,
this tragedy mask of pain
If only they knew what indeed covers it.

~

Mirror, Mirror on the wall
society paints the world with lies
Talk young girls to sleep with stories of righteous guys

For all I know, the prince who came to save
Left me shattered, dignity in shreds
I fixed myself, *glued* backed the pieces.
Funny how I am never glorified like these princes

~

Oh, princess, I worry for you- the denial you display
But I see right through you and your sick, twisted mind game

Take the mask off for once, let the sun rays kiss your face
Who knows, maybe it'll dry the tear stains

~

Mirror, Mirror, tears make you weak
In a cruel world like this, there is no room for mercy
Tears, sadness, anger: all forbidden things
Show a little bit of emotion- unprofessional hormones, men tease.

Mirror, Mirror, don't you see
being a woman is not for me

~

Oh, princess, femininity is such a beautiful thing
Wear it with pride, a badge of honor to be seen
Women are strong-bolder and better
She who brings light to the world
A goddess. The creator

~

Mirror, Mirror, you wouldn't understand.
This manly world has no place for me
Unless I'm a size two or submissive and please
I'm beaten and criticized for everything I do
Is my skirt too short? Do I look like a whore?
Is he going to drug my drink? Can I at least have some equality?

Oh Mirror, Mirror, to be a man
The things I could wear. The night strolls I could take
I desire I want; My heart pounds at the thought
of a million things a man can do while a woman cannot

Is that too much to ask, oh selfish of me
let me return to apologizing

Mirror, Mirror
Nevermind, Don't tell me the truth
Feed me 10,000 lies. Force it down my throat
Tell me I'm confident and that my ego is high
Tell me i'm competent; Fill this empty heart of mine

Anything, Distract me of my misery
Show me *everything* but this horrible reality