

# Here

By Jada Tubbs

\*Rediscovered from *The Menagerie* (2017), Homewood High School's Literary Magazine

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Never again will I waste away in the night  
Wishing for you, wishing for you  
To be here with me  
Because you are  
You are here with me,  
In this chaos we call love  
Our fingers grazing, stares killing us  
Ever so slightly, hands gripping, reaching  
For parts of the other that have never even begun to exist  
The sweat forming on our bodies could put the Dead Sea to shame  
I am not oblivious to stretch marks on your thighs,  
Or the scar that has made a home in the edge of your left brow,  
Or the brown freckles on the small of your back  
I am not oblivious to your obsessive tendencies  
Or your not so subtle acts of instability  
I see you, and I am not deterred from loving you  
I am overwhelmed with my admiration towards you  
This should not come as a surprise to you  
My love is unconditional and true  
Darling, I love you  
Even your odds and ends.