

Ali Krimmer

People say
you can't make it through:
the Friday nights,
the parties,
the concerts,
trips to the city,
the 4/20s,
the non 4/20s,
the peer pressure
free and clear
with no bad history
no tawdry secrets
no gossip.
But she did it, and so did I.
No solid, no liquid, no gas
passed through my lips.
I am clean and clear,
to myself and my peers.
And proud of it.
Wow.

People say
you can't make it through:
the awkward stage,
the initial attraction,
the flirting,
your first kiss,
the dating,
the sex (will there be sex?),
your last kiss,
with only good memories
good laughs
good times.
But she did it, and so did I.
Nothing happened
that I did not want,
I did not ask for,
I did not approve.
Wow.

People say
you can't make it through:
your after school job,
sports practice every day,

Merrick Road in the snow,
the trip to the Bahamas,
visiting your sister at Buffalo,
prom night in the city,
five AP tests,
every one of a million
mundane things,
unless there is help
from a parent
a neighbor
a friend.
But she did it, and so did I.
If someone else did it,
I can do it.
I am just as capable
just as strong
just as aware.
Wow.

People say
you can't make it through:
three colleges in one day,
the perfect essay,
the perfect SAT score,
your applications before October,
the stress,
the pressure,
the strain,
the rejections,
the decisions,
the goodbyes,
without cracking
or crying
or breaking down.
But she did it, and so did I.
Never did I worry
about my fate;
what is meant to be
is meant to be
and will occur.
Wow.

People say
you can't make it through:
the bittersweet halls,

the obstacles in your path,
the past,
the present,
the future,
your life,
anything.

But they underestimate
the power of me
and underestimated
the power of her.

I have the power to live
to love
to learn
to share
to want
to need
to get.

So did she.
And, to do it
with class
integrity
honor
and respect.

I did it,
she did it,
and you can do it too.
Wow.