

# Sunscreen

Baz Luhrmann

We throw beach towels into the breeze  
Ease our backs into the sand  
Close our eyes and  
Ask the sun to stay out just a little bit longer  
And we don't run when the heat gets stronger  
We just lather our skin with sunscreen  
Close our eyes again  
And drift off into a silent sleep  
Knowing we're protected from whatever else the day might bring  
This protection is beautiful  
She asks me if she's beautiful  
Every Friday night  
Standing at the foot of the stairs  
She asks me if she looks alright  
And if only she could see what I see through my eyes  
How the flowers turn their face to her stride  
How the rainbow of her smile is enough to overcast the skies  
I tell her she's beautiful  
And I mean it  
Because she's been flipping through magazines again so  
It's gonna be hard for her to see it but I see it  
I know it  
The same way I know the metal still shines behind the rust  
I know her beauty lingers  
Like the band of skin still holding her natural skin tone  
Behind the diamond ring on her finger  
I know her beauty lingers  
Behind stilettos and name brand clothes  
Salon haircuts and make-up  
I ask her  
Do you know why they call it make-up?  
Because too much of it  
Makes you make-up lies about who you really are  
And you already shine brighter than any star  
You can see it if the city would just turn its light off for once  
But it seems the world has forgotten where the shine should really come from  
We're thinking outside in instead of inside out  
Baby  
Dabble some of that lipstick off your mouth

It makes my cheeks feel greasy  
Some days she doesn't believe me  
Those days when she's at her worst  
When nothing else hurts more than her reflection staring back at her  
Every tear drips like Chinese torture  
Facedown in the aftermath  
Her confidence shattered into a pile of broken mortar  
She is left defenseless  
While we make battlefields out of skin  
Silicon and collagen being buried beneath like landmines  
Recruiting girls as young as nine  
Putting them through boot-camps of crash diets and bulimia  
Using Revlon for war paint  
Gucci for body armor  
Coach purses as weapons of mass distribution  
Beauty vs. vanity  
And vanity is slicing beauty up her sternum  
To expose her flaws for the rest of the world to  
Gawk and laugh at  
(If you think I'm taking this metaphor to the extreme, ask yourself how many times we've cut down others for  
not meeting our superficial expectations)  
Yesterday I saw a 14 year-old girl wearing a skirt shorter than my father's ambition  
I can almost imagine  
While she powders her face in the bathroom  
Downstairs on the TV  
Pedophiles are getting caught staring stupid into the hidden cameras of Dateline NBC  
I wish I could tell her I'm sorry  
Sorry we let you down I promise you can return to  
Slumber parties and gossiping about boys when the world decides to finally come around  
I am not self-proclaimed righteous  
In fact I've stared at more cleavage than I can count  
But if there's any glimpse of any honesty left in me  
Then let this poem be the way that honesty should sound  
You're beautiful  
You're beautiful  
And I'll repeat it until it saves you  
Until you learn you can spend an entire lifetime in the bathroom  
But it'll never compare to how perfect you already are exactly the way God made you  
So let the flowers turn their face to your radiance  
Let your heartbeat pulsate to your skin  
Marvel at your magnificence in the mirror  
Spin then do it again  
Beauty is nothing more than confidence  
Vanity is nothing more than shackles  
And love will never equal a man who's knees are scraped with carpet burns

From trying to run out your door with his pants around his ankles  
Wear your smile like a sundress  
Wear your mystique like sunscreen  
To protect yourself from being burned by the sheer ugliness of beauty magazines  
Because the sun is shining  
And the sunscreen will help you see  
That the protection will always be beautiful  
Just as you will always be beautiful  
You will always be beautiful  
To me

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Lyrics submitted by Olivia Sandiford.

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