

## V2 4.8.16

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in the middle of your mantel piece sits a picture frame  
in the middle of that picture stands a young man you once knew  
in the middle of your living room you have nothing  
no coffee table and you're not expecting guests

in the middle of your day, you think of the man in the picture on your mantel  
who said he belonged there and why did he take up so much space  
in the middle of your thought, you remember that you don't remember  
you think you might replace him with a lamp or a collectable

you remember that man teaching you how to ride a bike  
but not to drive  
teaching you how to use a knife  
but not to shave  
teaching you how to talk  
but not to listen

you remember that man on the mantel leaving for work  
leaving for war  
leaving  
nothing brought him home fast enough  
nothing sent him away soon enough

you remember being excited  
you remember telling your colleague that year was great  
then you remember, that you don't remember that year at all  
so you avoid that subject every time

you remember in the middle of your childhood you moved  
you moved more than once  
you moved enough times that settling down felt like the middle of a move  
you moved to america  
but this was not success  
this was forever retreat

now, you say today was better than yesterday  
you feel like you're getting ahead  
you say, no i feel like i'm moving backward

he says, no you're not in the middle  
but we know the truth

the truth is slamming doors  
the truth is chasing cars  
the truth is loading a gun with words

the truth is being packaged and shipped off

the truth in bad communication

you remember that you're too busy  
to worry about what happened  
you're too busy searching for a duality that doesn't exist

### **V3 5.2.16**

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#### **introduction of the introductory section about being in-between people.**

( volunteer audience member reading this letter. young boy if possible. )

dear dad,

think of the people that you are sitting between  
about who they are  
about what they might be in the middle of  
school  
buying a car  
building a porch  
having a child  
learning to cook  
a family trip  
a divorce  
an optimistic and exciting time

we are in the middle of our days, here  
we are in the middle of the years

and there

in the middle of your day  
in the middle of mine

in the middle of digesting our last meal together  
in middle of our decision about what to eat next

*is a calming feeling*

*an equal tension creating balance*

*a kind of home, in the midst of things*

*a kind of haven, away from the turbulence of beginning and ending*  
*b*

*maybe you can even see both sides from this vantage point*  
*( Katie felt lost )*

beginning  
were times in which we didn't speak  
ending  
may be the faint glow of repetition

i'd like to ask you if we're past the thick of it  
here in the middle  
i'd like to ask you  
if the rhetorical question is still useful?

but the middle is not always in between  
the middle implies progress  
the middle means starting somewhere and finishing somewhere  
starting and finishing

we are in the middle of our days  
we are in the middle of the years

an equal tension creating balance  
a calming feeling

how long can the middle last?

how long can the middle last?

how long can the middle last?

***how to cue the audience member into dialouge...? this would require some kind of video queing to be able to a bbbgggbg t least pause.***

“you know, my dad always said this metaphor to me as a kid”

what was that

“ they couldn’t carry a bucket full of water”  
( volunteer from the audience )

i always wonder what that meant....

### **body**

what i want to talk about is the feeling of being in-between  
thighs  
parents fighting  
sweaty butt cheeks  
political parties  
religions  
here and there

**V4 6.16.16**

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i want to talk to you about relationships.  
relationships between boys and their fathers.  
and when i say talk, i mean i want to feel *at* you

and i want you to *feel* at me  
if you have anything to feel about your dad

in the period separating two points in time,  
the time of love and the time of hate  
lies a child

in or along the space separating two objects,  
such as cups or shirts or  
really anything representing a lost duality  
a duality that you crave and refuse  
that you crave and refuse  
you crave and refuse  
the memory of it  
the forming of it  
the existence of it  
disbelief settles in like basement dust

by combining the actions of words  
contention is reached and remains afloat

expressing movement from one side to the other and back again  
and to the other  
and back again  
and to the other  
and back to the same old again  
because you live here, in the middle  
between two people  
between two points of view  
between two colors  
two butts on the sidewalk  
you look for a chance to put yourself between

indicating a connection or relationship involving two parties  
connected by blood  
guilted by that same blood  
in love for the sake of honor  
two parties who speak to keep the poison ripe

he is who i think about every day  
he is who i see in every person  
he is who i am trying to kill in me  
and again

and again

## V5 6.16.16

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think of the people you are sitting between  
who they are and where they came from  
think about what they might have had for lunch  
think about the last thing their father said to them

in the period separating two points in time,  
the time of love and the time of hate  
lies a child

think about the last thing you said to your father

be·tween  
bə'twēn/  
preposition  
preposition: between; preposition: bet.

1.  
at, into, or across the space separating (two objects or regions).

expressing movement from one side or point to the other and back again.

2.  
in the period separating (two points in time).

3.  
in the interval separating (two points on a scale).  
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- 4.

indicating a connection or relationship involving two or more parties.  
synonyms: connecting, linking, joining; More uniting, allying;  
among

- 5.

by combining the resources or actions of (two or more people or other entities).

adverb

adverb: between; adverb: bet.

1.

in or along the space separating two objects or regions.

"layers of paper with tar in between"

2.

in the period separating two points in time.

"sets of exercises with no rest in between"

in the period separating two points in time.

in or along the space separating two objects or regions.