

Education Reservation

By Lilly Bick

Education

Education is the gift that keeps on giving
Always teaching us something new, guiding us, and protecting us
Schools are diverse, inclusive, and unique spaces
Public or private, you're always welcome to education and protection!

Except

The kid with the "messy, nappy hair"
The kid that has a "weird, hard-to-pronounce name"
The kid that has been called "Baljeet" or "Ravi"
What about them?

Well, what about the one girl's flesh that grew into her body quicker than the other girls
The girl that once blanketed her body with extravagant dresses and baroque outfits to
Dark. Dull. Depressing. Dreary. Dim.
All because of the way a man looked at her premature skin
What about her?

Well, what about the "sensitive" boy
The boy that searched for hours in his mother's closet for what seemed like gold
The boy that hid from his peers in sequins and makeup
What about him?

They say

Education determines your future
Learning at a fast rate
Trying to catch up to your peers, yearning for academic validation

Well, what about the kid hiding in the shadows that could cure cancer if anyone paid attention to
them
The kid that got swallowed up by the obsession to be perfect, with walls of pressure collapsing in
on them
The kid that was shunned away for being "special"
Well, it's not about him

It's about the football player that doesn't know what two plus two is

It's about the kid who buys his way through life

The cheerleader who sells herself to get whatever she wants

It's about them.

About their fair skin and pin straight hair

Their fit body and ability to bench press twice their body weight

It's always been about them.