

# Celebrating Writers and Writing in our Communities

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## Graduation

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# Graduation

by Ai-Lan McGoldrick

I stand on that stage  
Two steps from claiming the end and starting the beginning  
Looking out at the faces that have watched me grow and I feel a fraud

I've spent the past years trying on faces  
Living and breathing till they fail  
I could not tell you the color of my eyes nor recognize the tilt of my smile

The floor has fallen and I'm spiraling  
The rules are rewritten  
And I'm left in the dark with the company of my wants  
Left to wander

I've been crammed into a mold  
The excess sheared off  
Created to fit through The Door

And now with a blank casting  
My thoughts are empty  
I've seen the earth shake and felt the power of the ocean  
Yet I've never seen myself

Am I vengeful like the wind or persistent as the tides?  
Do I see the beauty in the sky or see the holes in endless fields?  
Who am I and most importantly who will I become.