

Spring 5-19-2015

At Your Prettiest/Your Name Is

Jake Phillips

Augustana College - Rock Island

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/mabryaward>



Part of the [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Phillips, Jake. "At Your Prettiest/Your Name Is" (2015). *Eddy Mabry Diversity Award*.
<http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/mabryaward/2>

This Creative Writing is brought to you for free and open access by the Prizewinners at Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Eddy Mabry Diversity Award by an authorized administrator of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@augustana.edu.

youre at your prettiest when your name is jake

youre at your prettiest when youre masculine

--

you are merely a thought
a hope between two young hearts in the doctors office
a possibility worth too much money
in vitro baby
science baby
identity unknown

--

you are merely a fetus
still growing in a young woman with a heart of gold
a possibility worth any amount of money
a paid miracle
no name yet but there are contenders
will you be jessica or kailey or jacob

--

you are a newborn
you see your father first and then your mother
you dont know it yet but you were an in vitro baby
a c section baby
it cost money so obviously you were made to last
your name is jessica

--

you are a young child
you dont know it yet but those young hearts tried again
hopeful for a little boy to go with their little girl
jessica and jake
your mother cries
you are an only child
and you always will be
your name is jessica

--

you are a child
mom liked jessica because of all the possible nicknames
but your name is not jessie
your name is not jess
your name is not jj
your name is not j
your name is jessica

--

you are in preschool
you like joey and joey likes you
nick likes you too and the three of you are friends
the other girls glare at you
you sit with the boys when its time to circle up
you dont have many friends who are girls
your name is jessica

--

you are at lauras house
brittney and stephy are trying to teach you how to cheer
but cheer is for other girls
you like baseball and rocket power
you like playing vikings in the yard
you like ian probably a little more than you should
brianna and cyndi call you j but no one else
your name is jessica

--

you are in middle school
j is your nickname and youre mad that juliana claimed it
you make friends who make neopets with you
you all use fake names for fun
you have multiple characters for fun
your name is leah
your name is jayk
your name is jessica

--

you are in middle school
your teacher calls you jessie and you hate it

your teacher calls you jess and you hate it
your mom calls you j and you roll your eyes
your friends call you jess
and you dont mind
your name is jess
your name is jessica

--

you are in high school
you have friends online but you use fake names
but amanda uses your fake name as a real nickname
and so your name is winter
your name is jess
your name is jessica

--

you are a senior in high school
you learn about sexualities and other genders online
and you think you might be genderfluid
but you cant focus on that
your parents are splitting
you hide online and cling to harry potter
your name is remus lupin
your name is moony
your name is jessica

--

you are about to graduate high school
you feel like a freak for your asexuality
and you feel like youre more masculine than feminine
and your parents are divorcing
and you finally realize that being an in vitro baby meant you were made to last but not
necessarily was your parents marriage
but you love how you look this summer
you take too many selfies
your name is moony
your name is jess

--

you are a freshman in college

youre making new friends
you escaped the clusterfuck that is high school
your roommate has the same name as you
but it doesnt feel right for her to be jess while you are jessica
she moves out and you live alone
your name is jess

--

you are a freshman in college
you decide to cut your hair
and your mom has bought you a binder
and you make jokes to anisha about her being best friends with a guy
and you get the dress you wanted for christmas
your name is jess
your name is jake

--

you are at your grandparents house during winter break
you are not out to this side of the family yet
so they all make comments about you being a girl
your name is not jessica
but here it is
you are jessica and you are one of the girls here
but you text nish and anna
they call you jake and dude
your name is jess
your name is jake

--

you are lying in bed at your grandparents house during winter break
it is one in the morning
you just came from the bathroom
you looked pretty in the mirror
pretty like a girl
but you felt like a guy and it made you grin
you are always at your prettiest when you are a guy
your name is jess
but mostly

your name is jake

and you are fucking gorgeous