

2022

## She Could Be You

Meghan Sullivan  
*University of New Orleans*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uno.edu/ellipsis>

---

### Recommended Citation

Sullivan, Meghan (2022) "She Could Be You," *Ellipsis*: Vol. 47, Article 17.

DOI: 10.46428/ejail.47.17

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uno.edu/ellipsis/vol47/iss1/17>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of English and Foreign Languages at ScholarWorks@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ellipsis by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UNO. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@uno.edu](mailto:scholarworks@uno.edu).

*2022 Andrea Saunders Gereighty/Academy of American Poetry Award  
1st Runner-Up*

**She Could Be You  
by Meghan Sullivan**

Holding forehead in palm and licked finger turning pages,  
she could be you: shea moisture scented hair, clear lip gloss on lips  
smack  
on that bus down to Tchoupitoulas.

The fear of strangers on a bus is not present. My fingers pinching your  
ear and my nose sitting  
where your neck meets your curls, our first time in New Orleans.

We went to that diner and everything felt like TV.  
The way you popped your pink bubble gum  
you couldn't look me in the eyes  
I bit my tongue.

I still didn't say how sorry I love you I am.

What were those fruits, womb of shade giver, to be split open and  
made partner to mason jar- a  
satsuma! It didn't smell like you, it smelled like a new home!  
And what about all that chill in the air, the two layers of jacket worn  
to distance self, I kissed you  
on the head saying goodbye and god, my heart has never been so  
hard and cold as when I  
closed that door.

I'm back to work tomorrow.  
And so, to the bus driver who nods my ticket onward,  
Please say good morning.