

To Christine

Susan Forde

I wish I could tell you
That you're not too fat
That you're fine the way that you are
That you're pretty enough
And you don't have to wear punishing heels
I wish I could make you believe
That you don't have to starve yourself
Or add to your chest
To fit this year's fashions.
And I wish I could tell you,
To love yourself as much as you love him.
You don't have to make yourself
Into his ideal
The real you is worth so much more.
But I am only once voice,
Against so many
The magazines with diets and makeovers
That you read
The fairy tale your mother read you,
Where the mermaid gave her voice
To be what the prince wanted.
Oh, I wish I could make you listen
But I'm only one voice
Drowned out by so many.



ACTIVITIES

- (1.) *Media have a lot to do with reinforcing our self-image. Create a collage of words and images from magazines, advertisements, etc. that may have affected Christine's view of what she should be. Refer to the poem for clues.*
- (2.) *Write a factious e-mail message to Susan Forde from Christine's point of view. Consider how she might view herself.*

See the rubric posted in class and/or on Mr. Smiley's website @ <http://hrsbstaff.ednet.ns.ca/smileymi>
for the marking criteria for the collage and the e-mail activity