Alexis Alsheimer

Contrast
I experience the world in a different, more vibrant way than many others... and it's Beautiful.
Rebekah Edmondson

Running past the Afghan National Army
Clifton McCallum

Depression: Compartmentalized Emotions Reified in Variegated Enclosures
Eris Wicker

What does Neurodiversity mean?
What does Neurodiversity mean?
Eris Wicker

Neurodiversity means being ten years old, crying at the kitchen table every night, pretending I fell asleep at the computer so my parents will send me to bed, I just can’t understand this grammar homework but I promise I’m not stupid.

Neurodiversity means my ex boyfriend can understand ableism in theory, but can’t respect my triggers, can’t handle me in full color.

Neurodiversity means I’m the “good autistic”, my mother looks at me next to my “low functioning” brother and says to my teacher she’s got both.

Neurodiversity means my mother spends hours reading PDF files on how to care for your disabled child and my brother gets specialized therapists and schools but I was the test run, stupid worthless do something useful why can’t you be more like your normal friends branded into my brain.

Neurodiversity means my ears don’t process everything but I always hear what they say about me, weird kid in the hallways is too nice to all the bullies, can’t understand why the teachers don’t believe them, gets taken out of school when the school can’t handle it.

Neurodiversity means As in college but Ds in middle school, can’t sit still don’t know how to make teachers happy, failed out of highschool once but dad looks me in the eye and says this is your last chance, don’t know how to fail again without thinking I proved them all right.

Neurodiversity means I go to a psychiatrist to treat my PTSD, my anxiety, my depression but get told ADHD is the real problem, my mom gets told not stuffing me with pills ruined my life, I’m only smart in spite of my ADHD not with it, take the pills that don’t make me feel anything.

Neurodiversity means fighting with my brain every day, no there’s not a shadow in the corner, no they don’t hate you, no don’t follow that impulse, no that intrusive thought doesn’t make you a bad person, try to fake the normal.

Neurodiversity means the school program says they can’t handle you but you’re old enough to know the money your parents don’t have so you fake the normal, fake the normal, grit your teeth and pretend it doesn’t hurt when he says he can’t handle you, when they say you’re more fun when you’re manic, remember the nights at the kitchen table as you grip your pencil and force yourself to sit still in your chair and go to class in spite of it all and laugh when they say “you seem fine to me”.

