

## Then I'll Be Smiling

Matt Nathanson

Trailed by a mess  
Of masking tape construction paper  
And the best of intentions  
He tried to patch up every hole as he went  
Back and forth and back again  
And his friends half full of half concerns  
Embarrassed looks and tired words  
They burrowed deeper into the ignorant  
Little lives they preferred  
And he envied their distance  
Their lack of concern

He thought,  
Once I shed the whole of me  
Once I shed the whole of me  
Then I'll be smiling  
He cursed himself  
And his instinct to nurse  
Every idea to health  
And all of the falls that he'd spent  
Trying to coax his name from the mouths  
Of success

He thought  
Once I shed the whole of me  
Once I shed the whole of me  
Then I'll be smiling.  
They litter me with small awareness!  
Then they ask if I'm good enough  
They litter me with small awareness  
Just to wake me up  
Why do the fools wake me up?