



Regina Spektor

"Us"

Soviet Kitsch

04/2004

Sire

What is More Kitsch than Unrequited Love

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They made a statue of us

We never listened to it together but it was about us,
I pinned it to you like a participation ribbon
but kept my ribbon hidden away and you never found it
even though I wanted you to.

And it's contagious

I've moved to three different places in my house
trying to write a poem about a boy with an ugly personality
who loved me in high school
but I haven't seen him in five years
so what does it even matter anyway
I only wrote an entire chapbook about him last year
but it doesn't matter it doesn't matter it doesn't matter
and if I say it enough times maybe it will be true.

It's all our fault

I wanted to be Regina Spektor
some little brown-haired pixie
with a voice like a waterfall
but I didn't get very far because I can't play the piano
and my voice is only suited for Alanis Morrissette karaoke
and I have suspicious eyes like dirty olive pits
and who would want a selfish little Saint Sebastian
with her hands full of dirt
but you were going to fit into the mold of my indie other half
if I had to force you into it with "Sweet Disposition" playing in the background
because *500 Days of Summer* came out
in the dead center of our high school years
and what are teenagers if not ignorant romantics
but the mad dogs biting in my stomach now all want me to forget what we were like.

It's contagious

There is nothing I want more than to be put down and stay down
like a sick cat poison me nine times until I lie still
and every memory from 2007 to 2011 drains out of my ears
like tangled string and puddles on the floor.
Sweep them into a dustpan and
please,
throw them away.

Our parts are slightly used

"They" is me and "Us" is you
until you didn't want me anymore
and I tore down your rusting city with my bare hands
but not enough to exorcise you from the remains
of myself that is your city.

I only wanted to hear you play piano for me again
because I am romantic at my highest
and petty at my lowest
and indecisive at my in-between.