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# So That's What It's Like

BY LAURA O'CONNELL

Laura graduated in May 2005 with a BA in English. Her poem, "So That's What It's Like", was originally written for Dr. Tabakow's Poetry Writing Workshop, and then was used as part of her Revision Project for Dr. Lee Torda's Advanced Portfolio Workshop. She also read this poem at the Writer's Café held in April 2005. Laura is currently working at an American Heart Association Journal based in Boston.

I was clutching a handful of confetti  
for what seemed like forever,  
wondering if I'd ever have a reason to celebrate,  
to toss those heart-shaped pieces  
of pink paper WEE! into the air.

Then I bumped into you—literally—  
and those figurative paper hearts  
went fluttering figuratively through the air.  
My first thought was, "My confetti is gone!  
Wasted on this accidental human being!"

I saw red heart-shaped balloons rising into the air.  
I knew they must be yours, lost in the collision.  
(And you, too, initially lamented their loss.)  
Pretty pink bits descended upon us.  
I turned back and saw you for the first time.

It was a good sight. We stared in wonder  
(at imaginary confetti and balloons!)  
at one another. It occurred to both of us  
in that same instant—this must be  
what they call "love at first sight."

At last.  
I thought, "No more confetti  
getting soggy in my clenched fist."  
And you knew you would never need  
to refill deflated balloons again.