

Who Was It?

By: Gabrielle de Manuel

One day.
One risk.
One task.
One trip.
The bell rings at nine
I just learned to drive
I know I'll be fine.
My phone pings.
Who was it?

Day two.
Homework due.
Lots to do.
Where to start? Party tonight.
Off my face
Six pack case
Not much car space
Everyone is yelling.
Who was it?

Third day round
I'm in the crowd
People are crying aloud.
You don't know the cost
Until all has been lost
I didn't know her name
No one is the same
I can't even recall anyone to blame.
Who was it?

It's day four
It always pours
Not just outdoors.
The air is dense
And everyone knows her now,
But in the past tense.

Crossing day five
"Thank god, you're alive."
It seems easier now than it ever was before in
my life
To cry.
I never did know before
What the colours of roses meant
Until thorns, beneath white petals
Pricked my skin

It's day six
I'm reaching a mix
Of emotions that hit me all at once
Like a bullet from a gun
A blow that will kill me faster
Than what she had to go through.
The sympathy is shot
Because nobody wants to keep talking
About a girl who died in a car crash
But I'd known what I'd done.

Day seven
An angel in heaven
Her name was Cassandra.
A name that will hurt a mother, a father
A little brother
Who is too young to understand.
A name which will stay with me
Until I am old
Because before I was told:

Don't drink.
Don't get high.
Think, my child
Before you drive.
One's decisions can cost a life
You don't know what you have
until it's gone.

Words I tried to live by
But failed.
This now I live with, I will not deny.

Wear that seatbelt.
Make that call.
Don't miss one thing just to risk it all.
When the ball is in your court
Make the right choice
Don't be the voice
To ask, after all is done

Who was it?