

BRUCE
MARK

*Little squares for houses strung along roads
The land transfigured into topographic codes
Maps show you what is simple and true
Try laying out a bird's eye view
Not what he told you, just what you see
What do you know that's not your dad's mythology?*


*Dad was born on this farm
Here's our house
Here's the spot where he died
I can draw a circle
His whole life fits inside*

*Four miles from our door
I-80 ran from shore to shore
On its way from the Castro to Christopher Street
The road not taken, just four miles from our door*

*You were born on this farm
Here's our house
Here's the spot where you died
I can draw a circle
I can draw a circle
You lived your life inside*

***SHIFT to Bruce in his car. He's pulled over to
talk to MARK.***

START

BRUCE. Hey, Mark. Is that you? 

MARK. Oh. Hey, Mr. Bechdel.

BRUCE. You wanna lift?

MARK. I'm not goin' far.

BRUCE. I'm happy to give you a ride. Let me move these groceries. Get in.

Mark gets in. They drive.

So, Mark. How's your summer? You got a job?

MARK. Yeah, working in the stockroom at Cosgrove's.

BRUCE. Good. Staying on track. That's great. Wanna beer?

MARK. I don't... I don't think I better.

BRUCE. It's okay. There's some in the bag.

Mark takes a beer, little nervous but it's also kind of fun. They drive for a beat.

MARK. Oh, uh, my house is down that way, Mr. Bechdel.

BRUCE. I know. I just like getting the chance to know you a little better. You got yourself a girl?

MARK. Nah.

BRUCE. Saving for college? You a senior?

MARK. Junior.

BRUCE. Ah, right.

SHIFT to:

MEDIUM ALISON. Dear Mom and Dad,
I assume you got my letter. I haven't heard from you.
I'd really love some sort of response.

SHIFT to Small Alison watching a Partridge Family-esque show on TV:

SOUND FROM THE TV.

(A kid's voice:)

I guess you're not too bad...for a manager.

(Canned laughter. A man's voice:)

And I guess you kids aren't so bad either— even if you do wear chicken feathers.

(Canned laughter, then a young man's voice:)

A-one, a-two, a-one two three four—

(Sound of family singing-group:)

Ba Ba Ba Ba....

Everything's alright, babe

When we're together

When we're together

'Cause you are like a raincoat

Made out of love...

Bruce enters, and snaps off the TV.

BRUCE. God, it's inane.

SMALL ALISON. I was watching it!

END