



basketcase

Meg Thomas

sweaty and screaming // you wake
clawing fists of the bedsheets // legs
kicking to be free // from a boy who isn't there
fighting // like you didn't back then // shaking
the sight of him away // the ghosts
of fingers grabbing flesh bruise // you
can't bear it // burn // the brand away
with water too hot to handle // skin scalding // pink with it
sit // for maximum impact // long enough
for the shower to run cold // cry
until you've washed your face clean
of him

spend the days lost
in the haze of it // vice tight grip
of your ~~wrists~~ neck sanity // see him
in every man you pass // every brown-haired boy
with freckles // every leather jacket // hear him
in every london accent // every barking too-loud laugh
every green day song // remember
how much you used to like green day¹

all the things he took // it's the silliest // but he
spotify haunts you with it // albums upon albums
undeleted // on principle because // he doesn't own them
but // fuck it you still can't listen to them // *fuck him* //
for ruining *everything* // remember // that he ruined everything

¹ basketcase was *his song* // so ironic // you were the basketcase but he didn't mind, he said // *do you have the time to listen to me whine?* // no, fuck—

remember that he ruined you

remember the time

he told you he'd never cheat // a 'bad boy' but
a *nice* guy // he lied // remember the time
he touched you as he told you // *no-one*
else could ever love you // fucked you
as he told you // that your thighs are too big
but your tits are too small // no // remember
the time // he told you that one
hangs heavier than the other // try to remember
which one without looking

remember // the time he broke a chair // broke a desk //
broke down // pushed you down // remember
it was *your fault* (apparently) // remember
how he was always angry // remember
all the times he fucked you // long after you said stop
remember // how your blood looked // on his carpet
how you froze // took it // how he used that
to justify it // remember how clueless you were
remember it's all your fault // again // that after *everything*
he's the one that ended it

remember // how he threatened to end everything
when you wouldn't take him back // remember
how he followed you for weeks // remember
to check he isn't following

remember // remember // remember