

Dear Mama!

Never liked your boyfriend.
But you did,
so I was there.
Supported you through everything,
Even if it wasn't fair.

I even kept the lights on,¹
Illegal and all.
I kept you food on the table
Even if it's my downfall.

Your kids are my kids:
That's what I was taught.
Even though it f****'d up my head,
I still won't say you're
My downfall.

I love my mommy forever
And I'ma always be there
Even with gray hair &
Wheelchair.

LOVE ALWAYS,
YOUR DAUGHTER

— D.F.

¹Note: When parents haven't been able to pay the electricity bills, some of the youth at Gardner Betts (when they were children) found ways to keep the lights on. Often this was their first brush with "crime."