Owl Question

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In grade school an unattractive girl I knew distributed a questionnaire to our class: she had decided to change herself. She wanted our opinions on the most flattering hairstyle, the sort of clothing she should buy.

I remember being impressed—not by the questionnaire—which was simple and dull, but by her willful desire for change: she saw she was one thing and she wished to be another. I have never had such clarity of vision. Is every caterpillar also a butterfly? Does the tadpole feel its fate on land? I am the one with her back turned against change because change is death whether it disguises itself with a hat or a smile. That girl in grade school took everyone’s advice. She was a smart girl, I’m told, and she made something of herself.