

**Bourne**  
**toWrite...**  
creative writing  
workshops

## Do you mind?

A timed exercise

by Tilia Guilbaud-Walter

Do you remember? When you told me you were bored in English class? It was the end of September and I was on a train, heading to a place that would become so familiar in the far future. You told me you were bored and I said to doodle on your hand, thinking of the flag that was branded on to your wrist, a signature move of yours I stole eventually. The flag, the pride, the confidence on your skin, with your faded markers, or my gel mujis. But this time I know you wrote a name, and I didn't expect it. I only noticed when you sent me the photos and I could see it flipped in phone camera. I look back and knowing you better and knowing me better, knowing life better I wonder, did you take the picture at that angle just so I would notice? Did you hope I would see the ink seeping into your skin? I called you out on it and I said "is that my name?" I remember my heart beating in my chest and the 'shmile' that tickled my face. You said "yes, I was thinking of you" that made me happy, I like to be thought of. And now in reflection I am asking do you remember? And do you think, are the memories burned into you brain and are the thoughts of me chasing you through the day? And do you mind?