“Most Likely to Succeed”
by Jane Thomas

A high school girl must have a lot of wit, be thoughtful, clever, useful, kind, and smart, astute, insightful can’t think with her heart-but with her brain. She must learn all this shit, must memorize the textbooks, be still, sit, must understand the contents, fill the chart and take the classes: physics, language, art and calculus, too. And at least a bit of grammar, so she can go home and write. And for more hours than she spent at school. Can’t sleep or eat, but she’s brighter than most. Test passed, now her life’s standardized. Still tries, though she graduated, and damn that’s cool, now she’s in college and has no chance post.