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Learning to Ride a Bike

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Learning to Ride a Bike

Shaun Stiemsma

Keep your balance
Stop turning in
Don't stop pedaling
Watch where you're going

There is so much to learn,
So much to remember.

First, get ready—
Helmet on, barely holding in those long blonde strands.
The excited smile, barely holding back the fear in your eyes.
Then, climb on—keep your balance—
Kick back the kickstand I installed
(Right after I took off the training wheels)
And start with one foot on the pedal.

You're going now, my hand keeps the handlebars steady.
Heading downhill is when it's clearest—fear is the one thing
That I can never teach you how to forget or overcome.

Watch your front wheel, don't turn in, keep pedaling,
I've let go, but the fear remains, so you stop,
Never fully, truly going on your own,
Because the fear is too great.

I cannot teach you to let go of your fear
and fly—I'm far too scared.