Aunt Evelyn’s Letters

New York City artist Barton Benes saved thousands of letters that his Aunt Evelyn, a Florida widow, wrote during their daily correspondence in the ’70s. Now he combines text from these breathless, driven, regret-filled pages with haunting images to make art about the unlived life.

January 1, 1999

Hidden Beauty

I love beautiful things,
And when I see
Something I want,
I cannot settle down
Until I own it.
And then I put it away,
So it will not get lost
Or damaged,
And never
Look at it again.

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