On Picking the Right Accessories for Dropping My Daughter Off at College

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On picking the right accessories for dropping my daughter off at college

This is the purse I bought to take to New York something small with a long strap something I could pull over my shoulder and wear like a sash. As though I was going to walk down Broadway, arms open wide, accepting flowers. Something compact for the essentials: lip balm, pen and paper, an ID.

Though now that I think about it, half my identification stayed behind, the final embrace, after she turned to go, stayed empty and cold for a long time.

Even the next day by myself at the museum, the weight of her absence pulled at the zipper, the bag caught on corners and chairs. Every time I untangled, some representation
of mother and child was
in front of me.

Had I brought my big bag
I could have gathered them all.