



You Are Here:

***FP Student Art & Writing from the 2022-2023
school year***

Dear readers,

This year's issue of "You Are Here" was the result of many hours of hard work and dedication. We have considered and compiled all of the writing sent our way and woven it together with art pieces selected by the art department. We would like to thank Mr. Hyatt and Ms. Ashman, who collected terrific art submissions to make our lives easier. We hope you find something to enjoy in these pages!

SUBMISSIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

We are open for submissions for next year as of right now! If you are submitting text (poetry, fiction, or nonfiction), please make sure you have it saved on a Google Doc somewhere and email it to Mr. Neumire at bneumire@fabiuspompey.org. You can also share your submission with your English teacher. Please include your name, and let us know if you want to remain anonymous when the magazine is printed.

If you are submitting artwork, please give it to Mr. Hyatt and Ms. Ashman. They will give you more instructions if they are needed.

Please make sure your piece is school appropriate, proof-read, and creative! We sometimes have to decline submissions that are not appropriate.

If you would like to join the literary magazine staff, we highly encourage it! You will need to have Wednesdays after school available. You should be ready to edit, type, and review submissions for publication.

You Are Here 2022-2023 staff members:

Ava Lee (Secretary)
Allison Marlow (Treasurer)
Tim Barnum (Vice President)
Carter Warren
Addie Curtis
Aunahka Valdez
Clare Rosa
Jordan Janicke (President)

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Dog by Joey Britschge

Untitled
By Julia DaRin

mary stuart
a queen from when she
was only 6 days old.

reminds me of the way
you made me a victim
when i was only
6 years old.



Butterfly by Alayna Sandberg



Bird by McKaylah White



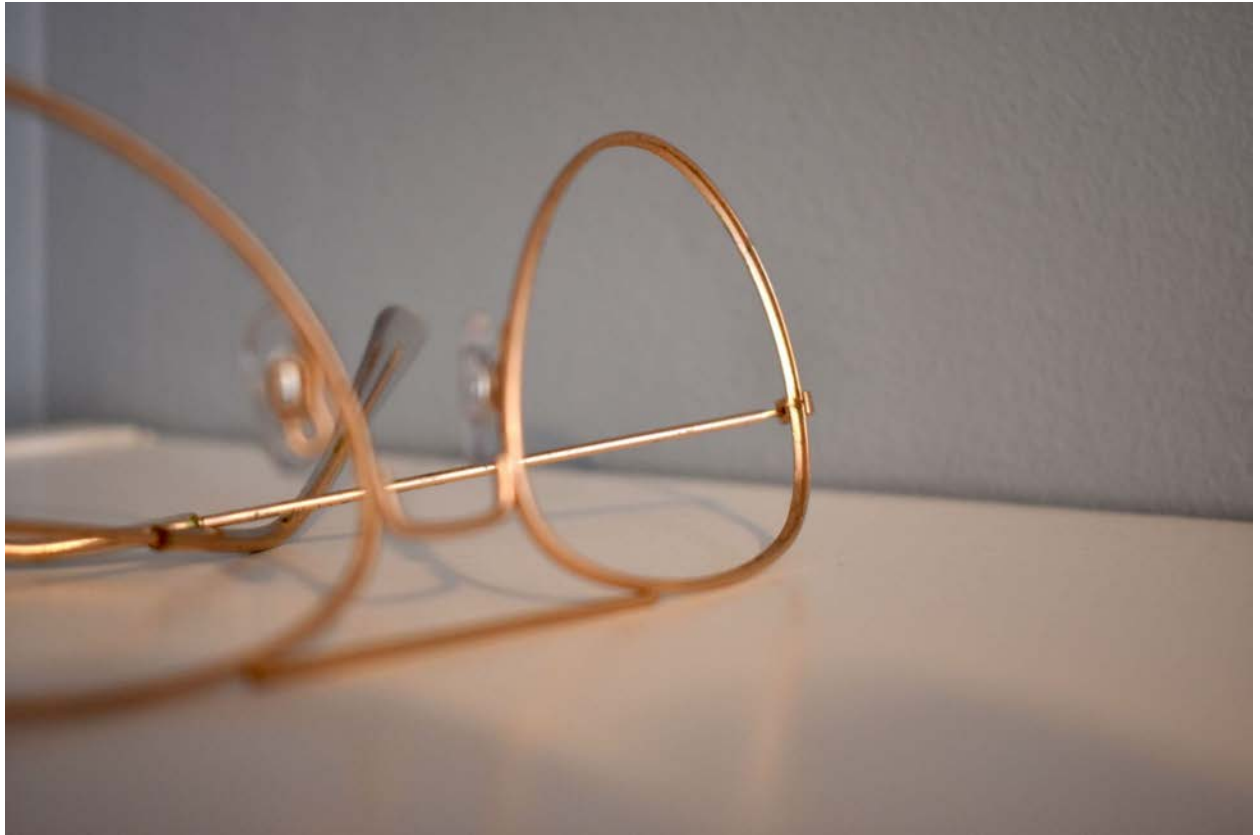
Prairie Dog by Aurora McDermott



Eagle by William Maier



Rabbit by Kaylee Masters



Glasses by Katie Mckee

Untitled
By Julia DaRin

i'm sensitive.
people's comments itch my soul
however my mind will
forever
be
my
biggest
opponent.



Car by Lyna Rekik



Mountain in Winter by Marisa Trommel



Unknown by Melissa Moore

coroners office

By Julia DaRin

She flows through my skin,
She's a mother.
Her words trap me
Like a lap filled with an innocent baby.

I feel full with her love.
It feels so unlawful.
We were inseparable once.
I was the only person in the pair.

For I am now addicted with you in my
Mind. Whilst inside of the jail cell
Known as my love. I am in a constant
State of paralysis. Frozen by thoughts.

I care not how you slaughter me.
Because one day, I know
I will have to find peace in solitary.
I become the silver glazed coffin

That once held a female body in it.
Female, Age around 16, Height 65 inches,
Hair Brown, Cuts around the thighs.
Thus my path towards decay beings

Yet I battle between getting high and stability.
For death sings its enticing song to me every time
You come around. Yet I am left only wanting
Death if it means you too venture with me.



Scene by Wil Chaney

“Trapped”

By Addie Curtis

Late in the night
I walk along the way.
This might be a shock,
But I'm not okay.

I'm held hostage
Inside my own skull;
I'm getting claustrophobic,
The light has become dull.

My suit of armor has become a dungeon:
It should be light but it's dark.
I shout and scream,
But I didn't make a mark.
Terror turns me to stone.
I am alone.



Triptych by Wil Chaney

Temptation

By Camira Crossman

the needle pokes into my flesh
a small sting
as my skin recedes with it

the dark ink pools at my pores
creating a blurred image
of the one i desire

i wipe it with vaseline,
rubbing black
into the wound

a couple days later
it itches
like ants crawling all over

you can't itch it though
can't satisfy that need
so it remains

a constant itch,
unable to be scratched
it drives you mad

if you scratch,
it won't heal
but the mental anguish

makes it so incredibly
tempting
just once

that'll satisfy it
right?
so you itch around it

and it works
until it doesn't
you can't scratch it

don't do it
it'll only worsen things
but hey,

what's there to lose anyway?

so you scratch the itch
hindering the wound
from its healing

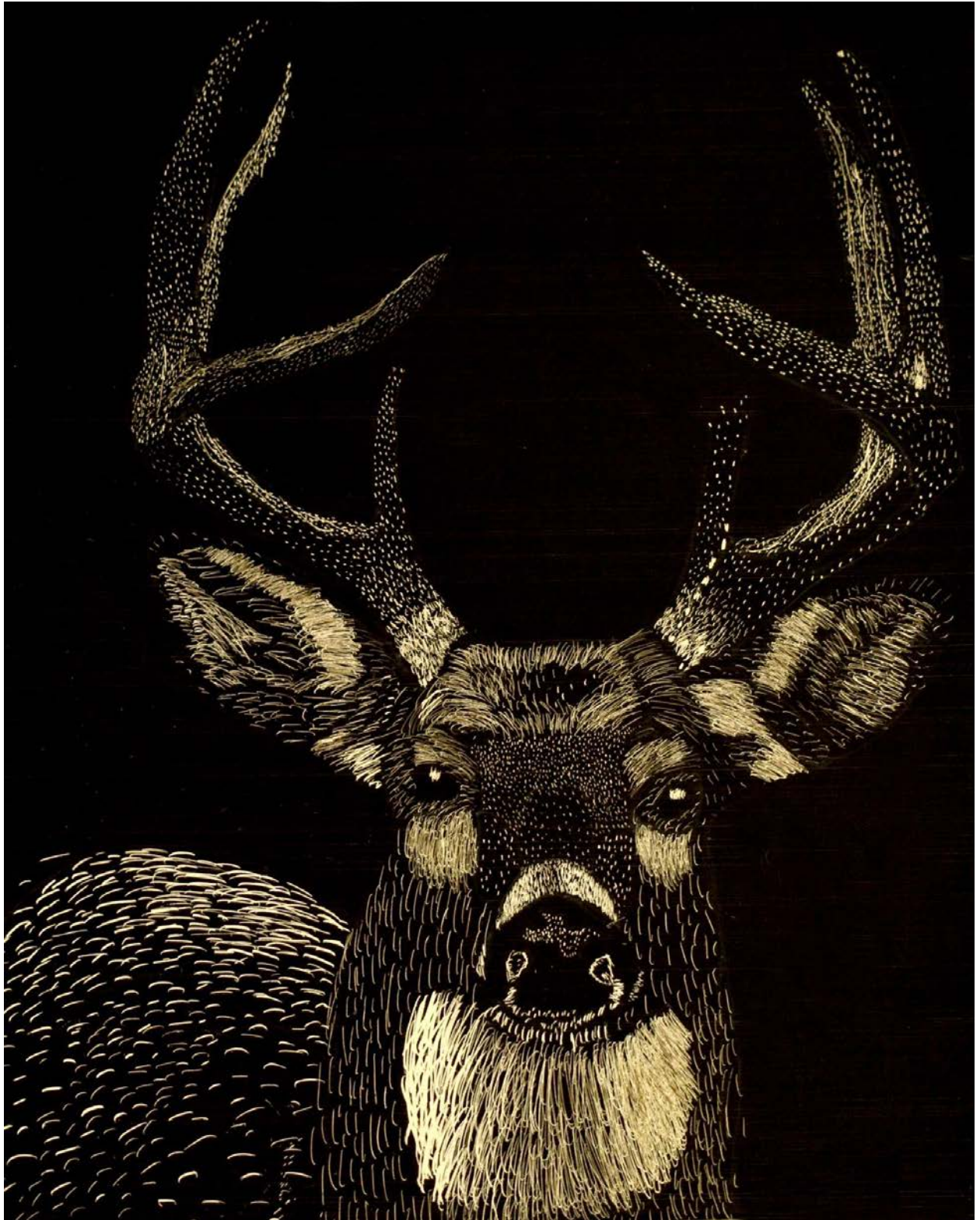
we both know
this isn't really about a tattoo.



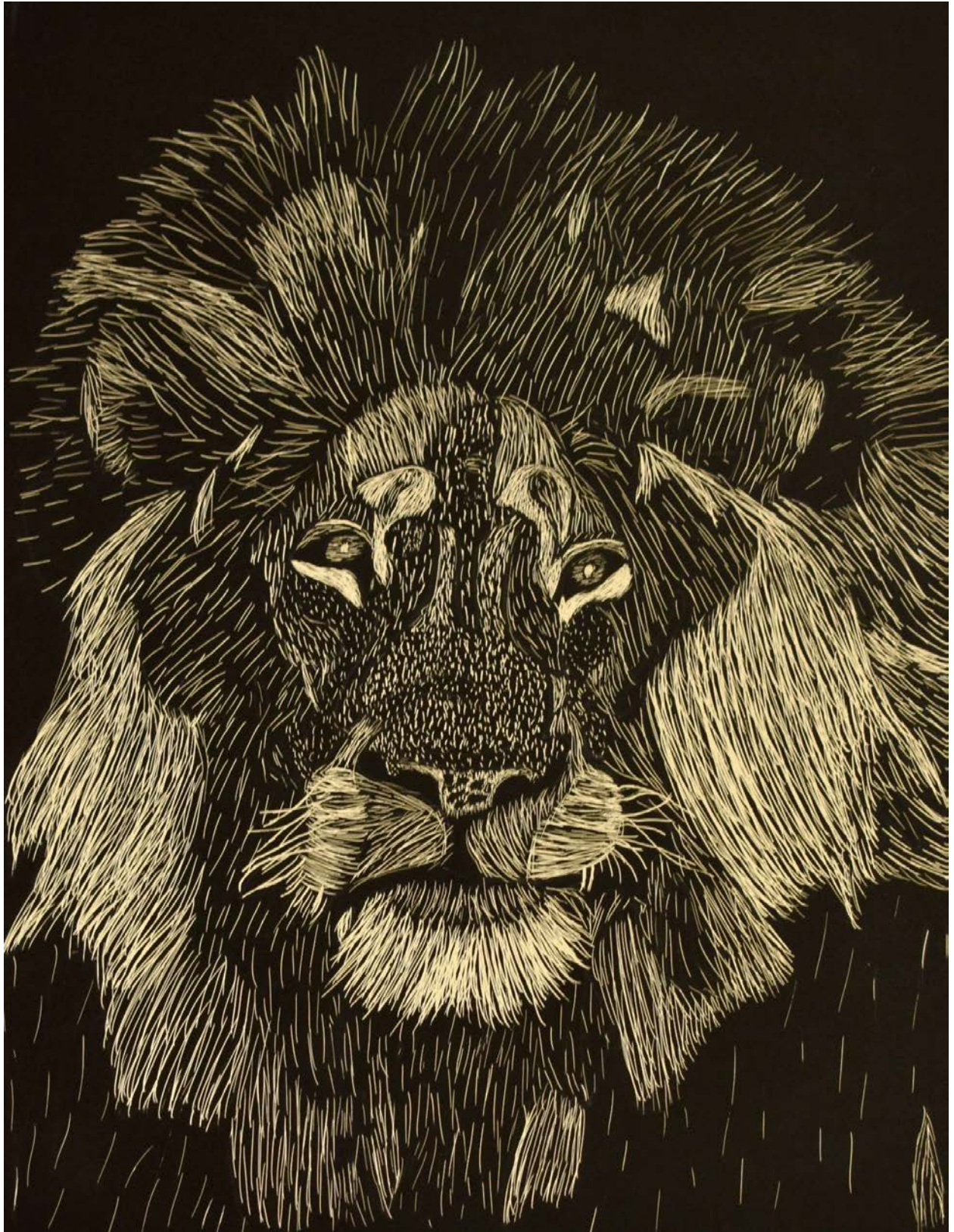
Shark Jaw by Kloe Fairbanks



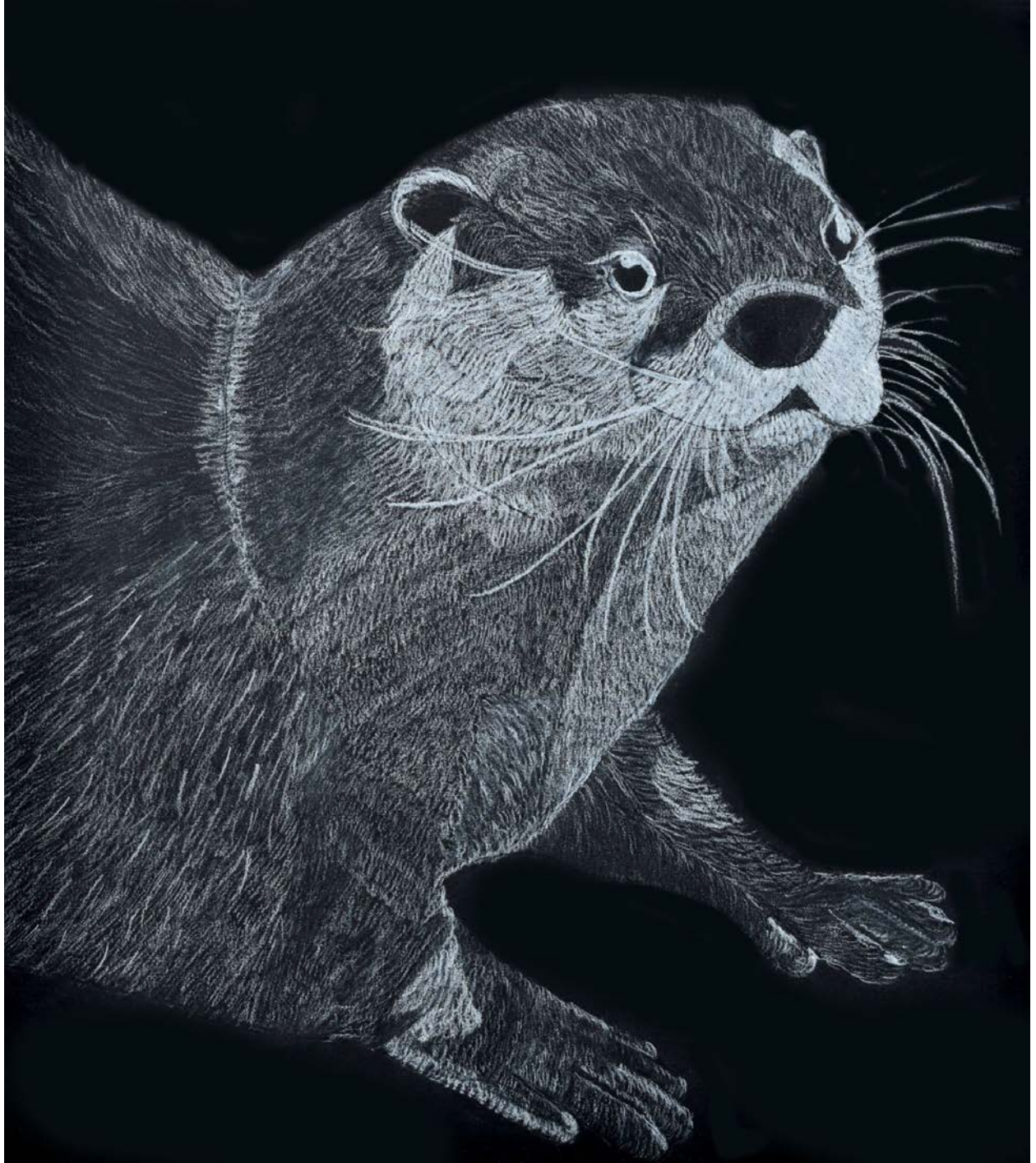
Otter by Carlana Wallace



Buck by Timmy Barnum



Lion by Bryce Drexler



Otter by Ava Lee



Bird by Aurora McDermott



Creatures by Wil Chaney

Guitar Ghouls

By Camira Crossman

things have ended
they're long over
your favorite band, Ghost
i finally got into them
it was hard to listen at first

all it did was remind me of you
i would get hysterical
my emotions bittersweet
music is music
whether it reminds me of us or not

i can't look at you without
thinking about your head on my chest
i can't listen to Ghost without
thinking of you obsessing
all your rants about their music, the lore

you changed my life
so dramatically
i'm so glad for what we had
it taught me a lot
but i'm glad it's gone

i want you back,
yet i know we shouldn't
it's so incredibly draining
and i needed the break
maybe a permanent one

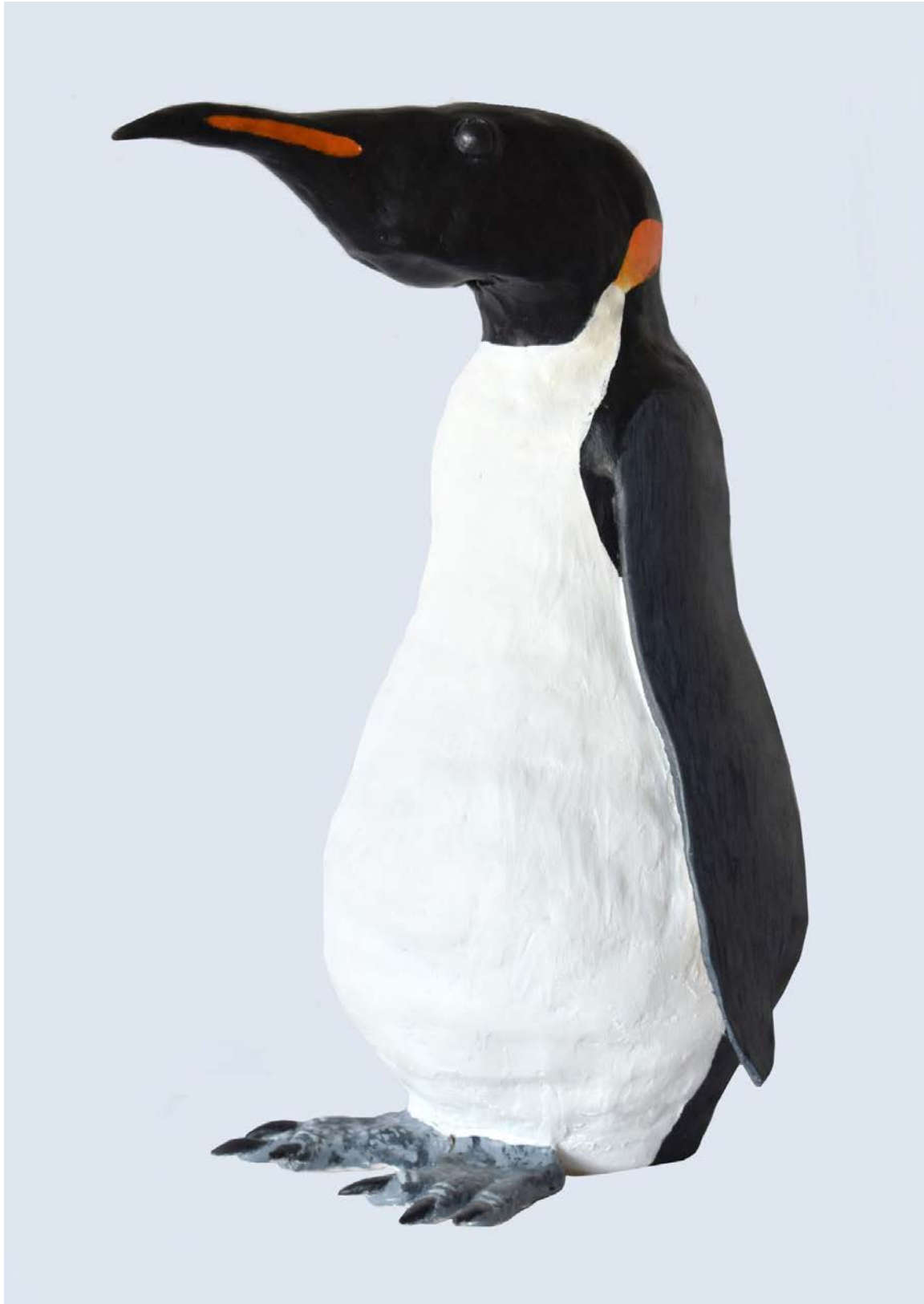
temporary sounded much better
i was so incredibly bitter
bitter of your new boy toy,
bitter over our music taste
bitter over how i have nothing for myself

the books i read,
the music i enjoy,
the art i see and create,
the poems i read and write,
everything contains a piece of you, somehow

it's never ending
constant mental anguish
i can't take it anymore

but then i listen to Ghost
and my heart is at ease

because i know i'll always have that piece of you



Penguin by Laurel Yard



Tree Scene by Wil Chaney



Helmet by Mike Reidl



Sculpture by Mike Reidl



Sculpture by Ace Stevens



Sculpture by Kloe Fairbanks



Sculpture by Lily Ward



Sculpture by Lily Ward



Heart by Melissa Moore



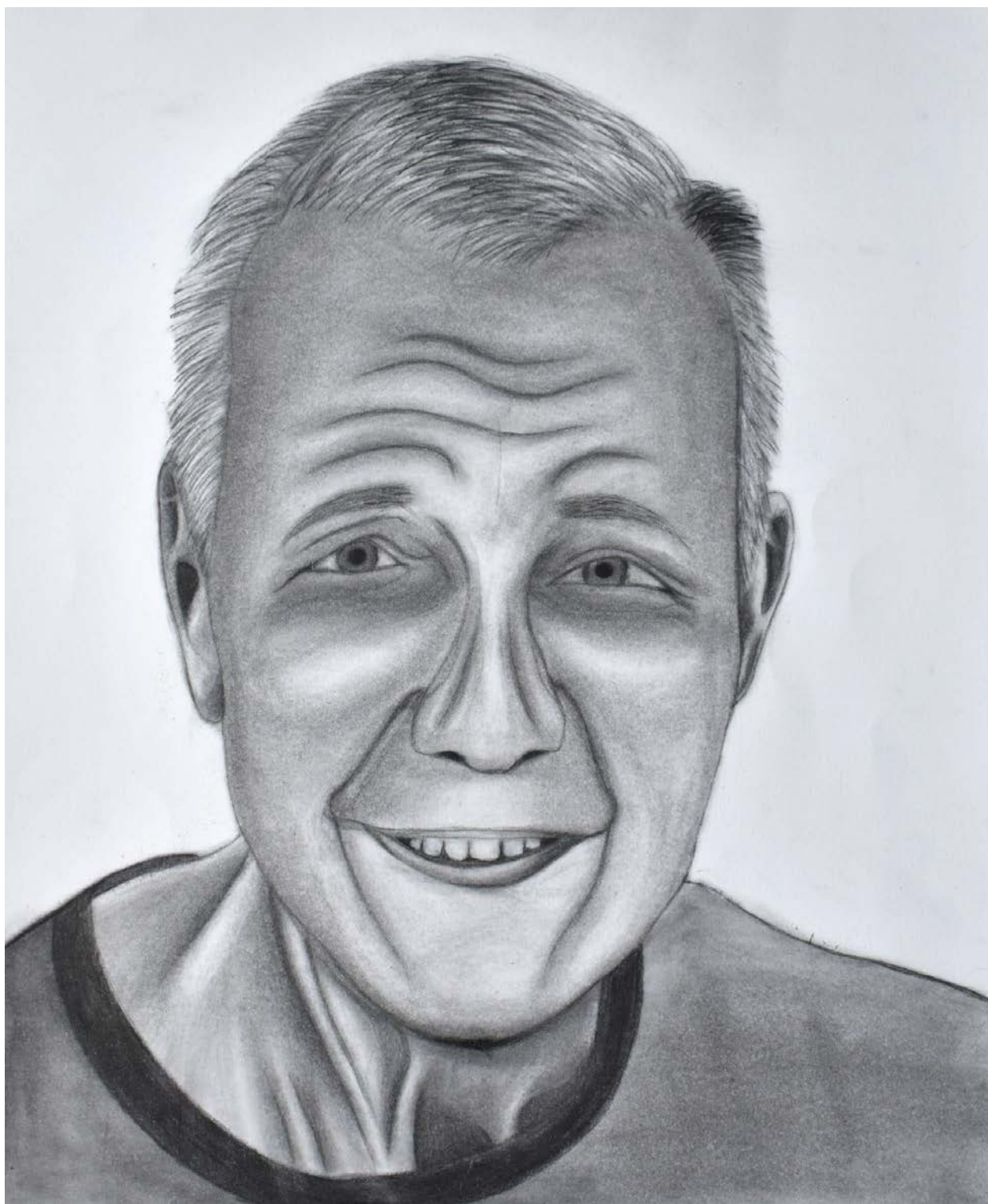
Faces by Sierra Kolod



Guinea Pig in Lap by Gia Meyers



Drawing by Emily McKee



Drawing by Gavin Meyers



Couch by Stephen Bodley



Hand from Cup by Gracie Frost



Car Door by Mike Reidl

Love is fake
By Aleah Fuller

Loving someone takes you into an ultimate universe

But you get pulled back into reality,

And all you feel is pain riding as you fall

On the cold hard wood floor,

Cries sounding like rain,

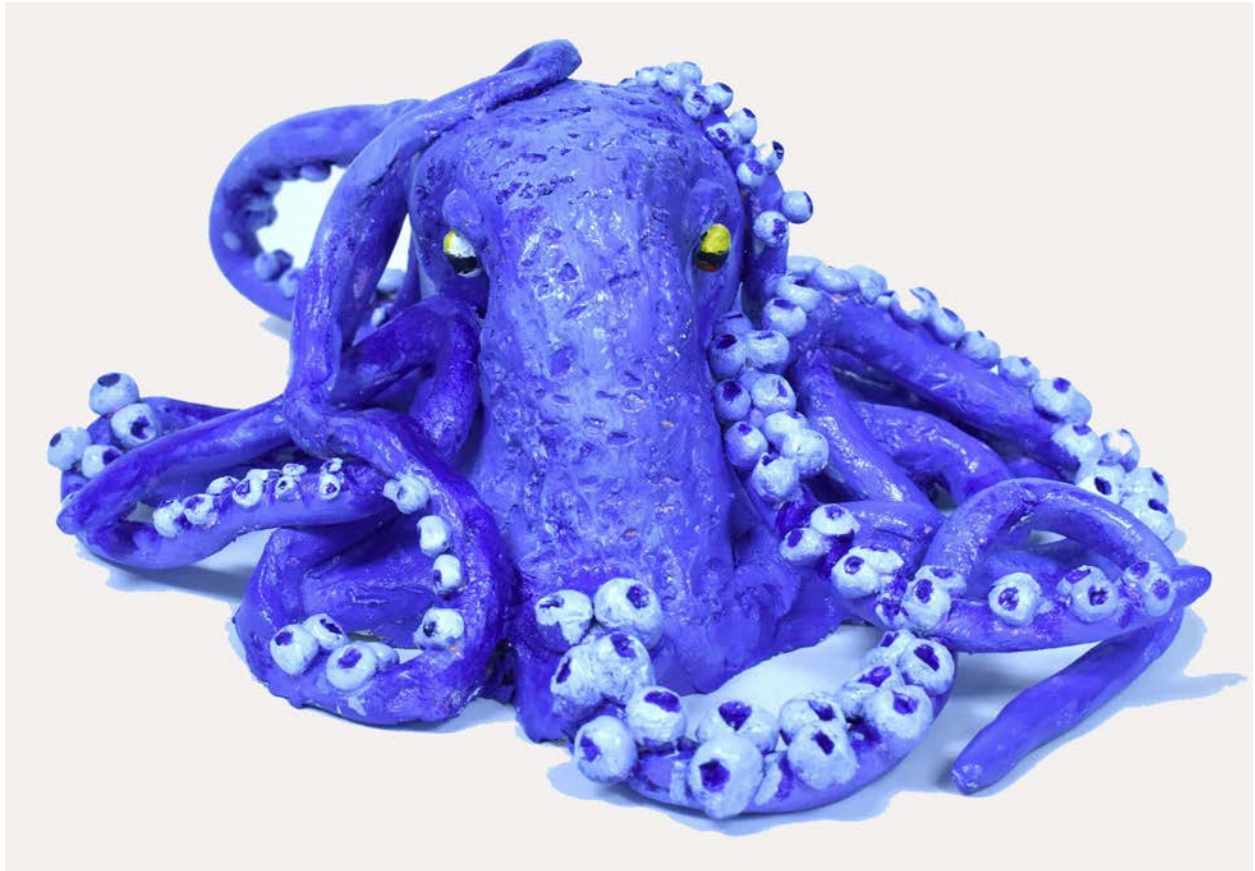
But you stop,

Hiding the twisted pain of love

And hide from red heart monsters that feed off your love.



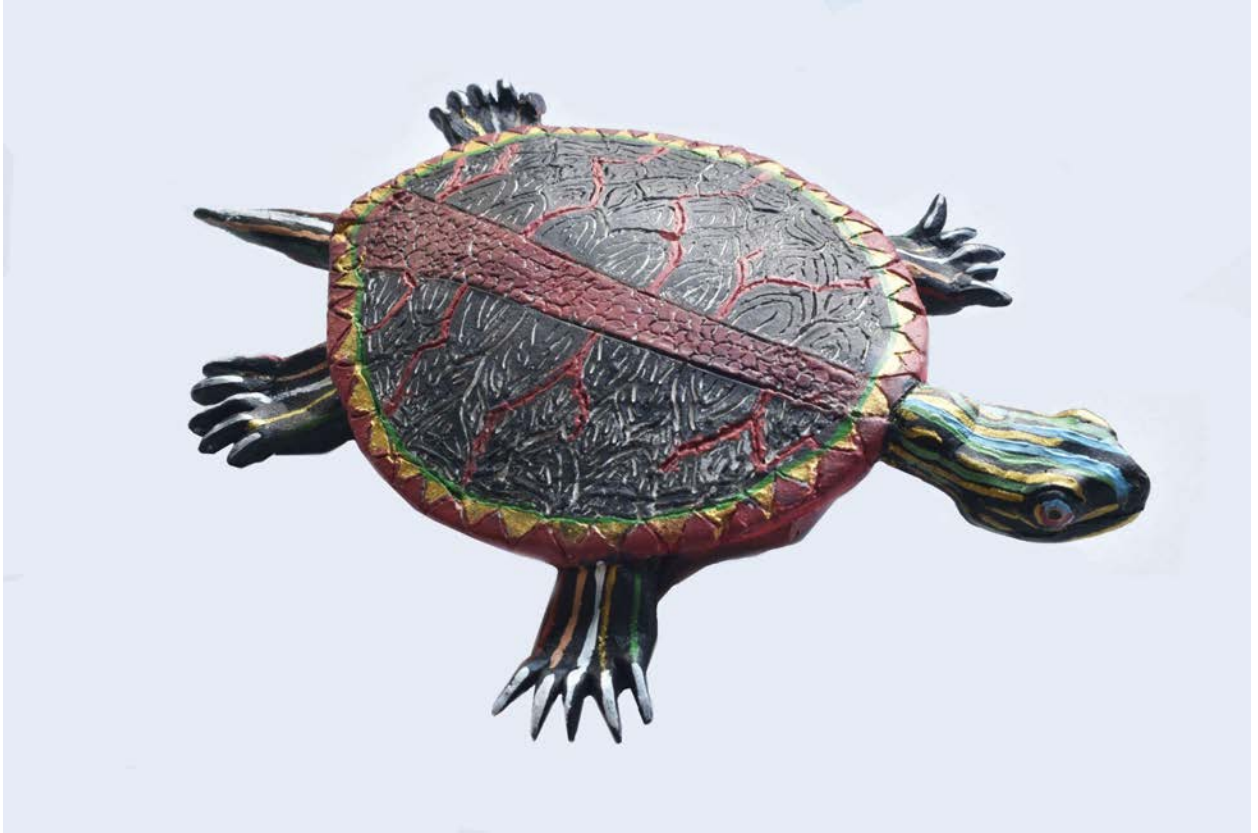
Fish by Taylor Keller



Octopus by Natalya Firenze



Fish by Lily Frost



Turtle by Ava Lee



Hand by Will Rosa

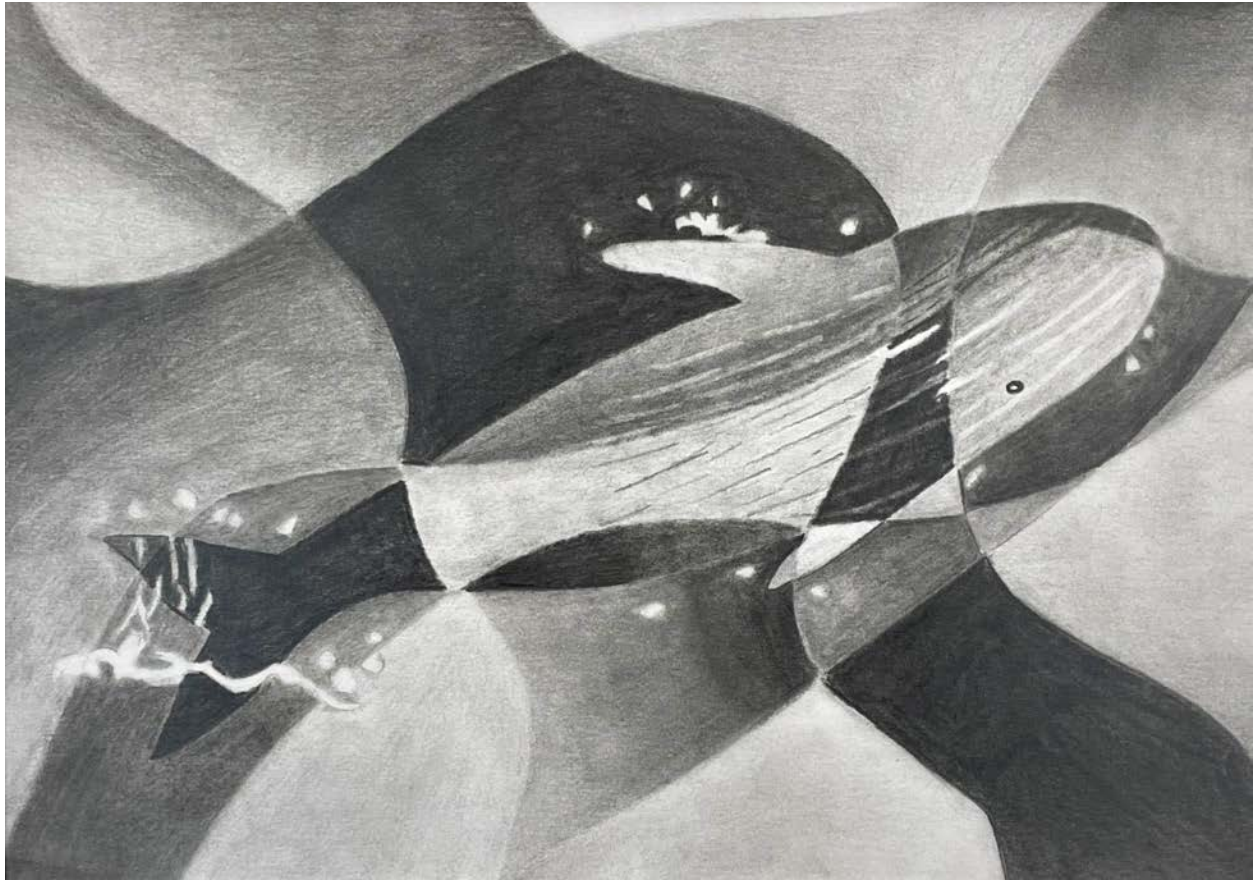
Untitled

By Camira Crossman

time isn't real
it will continue
even after the
clocks stop ticking



Dog by Carson Osborne



Fish by Aurora McDermott



Cat by Ava Lee



Fish Cup by Quinlan Yard

Pink Bracelet

By Ameer Malkawi

My parents named me Sally, one letter away from calling me Silly. I turned 15 two weeks ago. Sadly, I live in a village where a lot of forests surround me.

I grew up really rich. Well, my parents are rich and they get me everything I want. We have a big wine company and my parents both work in it. I'm home-schooled, and everything I learn has something to do with what I do in the wine company. I also learn a lot about plants to know which are poisonous and which are not. I don't really care about all of the money we have, all I really want is to go to a school and make friends.

Speaking of friends, I have one friend, his name is Zane, and he's also 15. We go on a lot of adventures here in the village, and of course, I'm the adventurous one, and he's always scared of everything.

One day, we went on an adventure to a forest that wasn't so far away, and on our way, we saw two boys throwing rocks at a beehive. I hated that and I screamed "you shouldn't do that, do you know how important bees are for the environment?".

One of the boys laughed and said, "Okay princess, why don't you go back to your mansion and play with your dolls?". They kept throwing rocks and Zane said that it would be better to go home; he's always scared so I ignored him.

Zane screamed, "Sally, these are not bees, they're hornets!", and as he was saying that, one of the rocks made a hole in the hive, and the hornets came out, and instead of going after the boys that threw the rocks, they came after me and Zane. We started running but they stung us a million times.

When we got home, our faces were full of stings, and Zane got really mad at me, which isn't like him at all, and he said, "I don't want to hang out with you ever again, you never listen to me, I told you from the start and you ignored me."

Did he really say that? I never thought he would get so mad over such a little thing.

"I'm sorry, but we're friends, and friends—" he cut me off and said, "we're not even friends, friends listen to each other, and anyways your parents pay my parents so I hang out with you and make sure you're safe." I gasped, I didn't know if he was joking or not.

My parents heard what he said and confirmed it as if it was not that big of an issue. They said that it was what was better for me, and that this way, they could make sure that I was always safe because I was an adventurer.

I burst into tears and said, "How could you? You don't know what's best for me, you don't even let me go to a real school, all I learn about is things that help me run your business, I'm sick of all of you. And Zane, I thought you were actually my friend, I hate you, I hate you all!"

I headed to my room with my face full of tears, and Zane's parents came and took him.

Years passed, and I hadn't seen Zane again, but my relationship with my parents became better, not good, but better than before. I'm 17 now, and my parents actually allowed me to go to school for the first time.

I got ready, and I said goodbye to my parents before I left for my first day of school ever!!

Things were going perfect until a car splashed me with water on my way to school. I flipped them off and yelled at them, because they just splashed dirty water off of the street onto my outfit, on my first day of school ever!!

The car that splashed me stopped, and reversed, the window rolled down and it was a girl. She said, "Hi! I'm really sorry for what I did, I didn't notice you there. And oh, are you going to EBHS? Because I'm going there. I can give you a ride, and oh, my name is Rain."

I forgave her because I got a free ride to school, and I got in, then we started to introduce ourselves.

She was really sweet, and had the most beautiful purple hair I've ever seen.

She kept talking about her life the whole time we were in the car, and by the time we got there, I knew her entire life story. She'd always lived in the city, had the most loving parents, and she liked Pomeranian dogs because "they have the cutest, most slap-able little butts". Yes, this is a real quote she said.

Anyways, we got to school, and luckily our schedules were pretty similar. There was only one period that I didn't have with her, so I was pretty good. The first 5 periods passed, and they were pretty fun, and now I was heading to lunch. I got in the cafeteria and I saw Rain sitting waving at me from across the cafeteria. I waved back and walked toward her. I sat with her and we started talking. She asked me how my first day was going and I said that it was pretty good.

I took the first bite of my lunch, and then she said, "OH, this is my boyfriend that I told you about, his name is Zane."

I looked behind me and I froze, it was Zane. The Zane I knew. The Zane I used to hangout with. But he looked much more handsome than he used to. She tried to introduce us to each other, but he stopped her and said, "We know each other, this is the family friend I told you about." You might think that this is a nice thing to say, but he said it in a really disgusted tone. I looked at Rain and she said, "oh, wow, what a coincidence, then we can all be best friends!"

Rain was the sweetest; she took me everywhere with her, even on their dates, even though that was a little weird to me. One time, I was with them at their date, and Zane gave her a really beautiful pink bracelet, but she said, "oh my god, that's so pretty Zane, but you know I'm allergic to pink." That was weird, but what was even weirder is that after she said that, she added and said, "Sally, you should take it, it would look really cute on you!!"

She was serious, but of course I said, "no Rain, Zane got it for you." And when I said that, Zane said, "I don't mind."

"See?" Rain said. They were a really weird couple.

We were really close, well, me and Rain at least, because Zane was always so rude to me. One day, my mom called and said that she had bad news. I prepared myself as if she was going to tell me that Dad died or something, and I went home. I got there and she said that our wine company was losing sales, and that we had to pack up, we were basically not rich anymore, and had to move out.

“What!? Where are we going to live?!” I asked.

My mom said that Zane’s family invited us over. I’m done, we couldn’t, or at least I couldn’t, live with Zane, he hated me too much.

My parents apologized and said that it would be temporary, and all of that bullshit. Whatever. We went there, expecting to live in a small crappy house, because they were never rich, even when we were “friends.” When we got there, we saw a huge beautiful mansion. We were all shocked when we got in. Zane’s family welcomed us and Zane came to me.

He got closer and he put his hand on my hair and said, “you have a bug in you hair. I thought you would’ve changed all this time but you didn’t, you’re still the same clumsy dumb girl I always knew.”

I mean, what did I expect? I unpacked and organized my room, and I took the longest nap.

The next day at school, we told Rain that we were living with each other temporarily, and she said that we would have to go eat dinner together to celebrate.

Yeah, celebrate hell.

We agreed.

The day passed while I was in my room the whole time, and it was now dinner time. Zane gave me a ride to the restaurant, but we didn't say anything the whole ride. We got in and we saw Rain waiting for us, looking as cute as always; she gave us hugs and we sat. We ate and chatted for a couple of hours, and before we left, Rain said “Don’t worry about paying, our boyfriend will pay.” What? OUR boyfriend? I love Rain so much but that’s a little too much. Zane paid and we went home.

At midnight, I saw Zane on the roof, and I thought that was my chance to go and make everything clear, and apologize. I went up and he saw me and said, “of course, just what I needed, what are you doing here, Sally?”

I stayed silent for a second, thinking of a good response. “I just want to chat a little, and apologize for what I said. I know our relationship the past couple of months wasn’t the best, and I know that it’s my fault. I never listened to you when we were kids, and always forced you to go on adventures with me, when you really didn’t have to. I’m sorry, Zane. Can we please become friends? Even if you never looked at me as a friend, especially since my parents paid your parents. But just give me a chance, please.”

Zane’s eyes widened, and he said, “you don’t have to apologize, I do. I’m sorry, Sally, but there are lots of things that you don’t know anything about.”

We were so close to each other that our lips almost touched. Zane seemed nice for a second, but he suddenly got angry. He moved me to the side, and went back to his room. Was I

actually about to kiss my best friend's boyfriend? I went to my room, but I couldn't go to sleep, I couldn't get Zane out of my mind. What did he mean when he said there are things I don't know about?

The next day me, Rain, and Zane went to a park. I'd never been so awkward with anyone in my life. Rain cut the silence by inviting us to a party that she was throwing, a big one, the fancy type, where a lot of students from our school, and their parents would come. Of course we agreed. Come on, it was a party. The party was a week away from the day she invited us, so I asked Zane if he would take me somewhere to buy a dress, and he nodded. That was a good enough interaction for me.

He took me to a fancy store, but I said, "I'm sorry, can you take me somewhere else please? I mean this store is nice and all, but everything here is around \$500, and you know, after what happened with my parent's company, I can't really afford that, so would you please take me to the store that's next to our school? It's got some really good dresses for a cheap price."

Zane sighed and said, "you should have said that sooner. I won't go there, just get out and I'll pay for it."

I thanked him and got out of the car. We got into the store, and it was really big, and filled with amazing dresses. Baggy, tight, glittery, matt, soft, ugly, pretty and more, you could find any type of dress you wanted. The store was full with these dresses, but one dress caught my eyes. It was a light blue one, with glitter all over the sleeves. It went down a little bit under my knees, and it was very soft. It was breathtaking.

Zane said, "hurry up, did you choose yet?" I pointed at the dress, and asked him if he could get it. Of course he said yes, I mean I wasn't expecting a no from him, he had the money for it. I only asked to show respect or whatever. He bought it, and I thanked him very, very, very much, and we headed home. Zane's mom made spaghetti, and that's probably the nicest thing she did to me after inviting us over. I love spaghetti. My white shirt now had some beautiful tasty red dots, so I put my finger behind the dots on the inside of the shirt, and started sucking them hoping that I tasted something, and got the color away. Extra sauce!

Days passed and I couldn't stop thinking about the party. What was I going to do with my makeup? What heel should I wear? I would deal with it later.

The day of the party came, and I got ready. Zane called me downstairs in the garage to get in the car. I went downstairs and I saw him with a suit, and his hair looked beautiful. He looked so hot, how was I going to ride with him?

I got in the car and he looked at me and said, "great pick."

"What?" I replied.

He said, "The dress, I really like it on you. It looks amazing, you look good!"

I thanked him, and I could feel my heart melting inside of me. ZANE COMPLIMENTED ME??

We arrived at the party place, and Rain was waiting for us outside as usual, looking prettier than ever, with her purple shiny dress, purple hair, and purple heels. She loved purple. I hugged her and she asked where our parents were, and we said they're coming later. We went

inside and the place looked amazing. I met her parents and greeted them, they were really nice. Half an hour of chit chats and introduction passed, until the music started, and the most unexpected thing happened. Zane asked to dance with me. Let me repeat that, Zane asked to dance with me!

I wanted to, but I asked him about Rain, like he should ask her, not me. So she came and clapped saying, “you guys look so cute together!”

I was so confused, what was this relationship? “I thought you two were in love?” I said sarcastically.

Rain said, “In love? I’m a city girl, and he’s a rich boy, and our parents really wanted us to be together, but we don’t like each other. I guess we’re just pretending.”

I looked at Zane. He nodded and said, “She’s actually right, I don’t love her. I love *you* Sally. I always have been your friend, and years ago my parents saw our relationship and decided to use it to their advantage. They were the ones that asked your parents to pay them for me to provide ‘more security’ and keep you safe. And I know I shouldn’t have gotten mad that day, but that happened.”

And before we knew it, our parents heard everything. Apparently, they had been here for 10 minutes. Zane’s hands were holding mine, but his parents saw that and came to us yelling about how he shouldn’t be with me, and he should be with Rain. They yelled at Rain too, talking about how they were meant for each other. I sat there and watched.

My parents came and they looked at Zane’s parents in a very dirty way. I ask Zane’s parents why they invited us over if they didn’t like us.

And Zane said, “They just wanted to show off their mansion. They wanted to show you guys that they are rich now; they’ve always done that, everything they did was to get money and show off.”

He looked at them and continued, “yes, you guys never even liked me, even when Sally was my friend, and my only friend. You used her parents to get money off of our relationship.” The party was no longer a party. Rain and I were looking at each other, and we didn’t know what to do.

My parents tried to stop everyone from yelling and said that the party was messed up because of them. They stopped and left the whole building. Finally.

The music played again, and Zane and I talked about what happened, “best friends forever?” he asked. I nodded with a wide smile on my face. He pulled me in for a kiss, and it was magical. The party ended and Zane, me, and Rain ended up together. Rain said, “I knew you guys would make a cute couple.” We smiled.

That party was three years ago. Rain and I are still best friends, and we hang out almost everyday. And about me and Zane, he’s my boyfriend, and he bought a mansion that we live in currently. Our parents still hate each other, but we don’t care. All that matters is that we all love each other, and nothing can defeat our relationship.

The Dragonslayer
By Jon Gambee

Scene I. Neumire's Landing. The city gate.

Enter the Paladin, gazing upon the ruin.

Paladin:

What horror is this? The glorious city I call home turned from marble and gold to ash and crumbled stone! When I last looked upon its hallowed halls and bustling streets I thought it was as permanent as the mountains which gave it shade. Alas, I was mistaken. It seems even the strongest structure built by the hands of man is just as mortal as the ones who made it. How the mountains must laugh at our folly, we beings who cannot even comprehend fivescore years, while an eternity passes for them in an instant. Are we but flies to them? Can we not build anything to match them? Will it all just crumble away?

Enter the Wizard.

Wizard:

I see it is your first time gazing upon this tragedy.

[Aside] The prince is just returned from his squireship under lord Gumpfer. Instead of receiving a royal welcome, the poor lad has received the destruction of all he has loved. A tragedy greater than most could imagine.

Paladin:

What nefarious villain has done this? Who started a fire hot enough to burn a city a millennium old, which has withstood innumerable wars?

Wizard:

'Twas not a man, but a dragon. The foul beast flew in from the Northern mountains, covering hamlets in its shadow. It flooded the city with a river of flame, hot enough to turn the royal palace into slag.

Paladin:

Then I shall crush the creature as a man crushes an ember, and not let the repugnant wyrm foul yet another city, and give peace to those who have lost everything to its flame. Neumire's Landing shall know vengeance!

Wizard:

It shall, and with my help. A lone knight cannot stand alone against a dragon. I shall assist you with my spells of healing and of harm, lightning, and life. I will heal your wounds, take the air from its wings and the fire from its mouth, and the strength from its muscles.

Paladin:

I thank you, good sir! Together we shall smite the wyrm and give rest to those whose lives have been taken, and deliver justice on their behalf!

All Exit

Scene II. On a mountain trail.

Enter the Wizard, walking with a staff, and the Paladin, holstering a sword.

Wizard:

After the dragon turned Neumire's Landing to cinders, it took flight to the North, from whence it came. It likely has some hole where it resides, where we can trap the beast, and prevent it from taking flight yet again.

Paladin:

And how are we supposed to do that?

Enter the Ranger, crouching unseen behind Paladin and Wizard

Ranger:

The ranger steps into view

I can help with such a task.

Paladin:

Points sword at the Ranger

Halt, knave!

Ranger:

Raises hands in a motion

I bid you no evil! I am but a lowly hunter, one who would not dare harm honorable fellows such as yourselves, and one who is no knave but an honorable gentleman, station permitting. I do not seek to steal, but to assist in your hunt. I saw the course the dragon took on the flight to its cave, I can guide you across this treacherous terrain, and my skill with bow and arrow is second to none.

Paladin:

I do not deny your skill, but why would you put yourself in the utmost danger for a hunt?

Ranger:

The dragon took the prey from my forest, so I shall hunt the dragon instead.

Paladin:

Your nobility rivals the heroes of yore! I would be glad to have someone of your caliber in the party!

All Exit

Scene III. Inside the Dragon's cave.

Enter the Ranger, the Paladin, and the Wizard, all equipped with their respective armaments.

Wizard:

You did not lie. Your skill in navigating these mountains is truly superb.

Ranger:

Any good hunter must know their territory.

Paladin:

I see movement!

Enter the Dragon

Ranger:

Good gods! The beast truly is enormous!

Dragon:

WHO BRINGS THE PITIFUL STENCH OF MAN INTO MY ABODE!

Paladin:

Destiny hath seen fit to deliver your punishment through us whom you have wronged,
and so you shall not leave this cave alive!

Dragon:

Punishment for what, pray tell?

Paladin:

The destruction of Neumire's landing.

Dragon:

A clever ploy. However, false justification dost not befit walking corpses!

The Wizard raises his staff, casting a spell.

The Ranger draws an arrow.

The dragon attempts to move but is paralyzed.

The Ranger looses his arrow.

The Paladin steps up to the Dragon and unleashes a mighty slash from its left clavicle to its right hip, and the beast falls on its back.

The Dragon:

To meet my end from humans, after defending them from those who would manipulate the darkness within their hearts, who would use them as fuel for their arrival. I have utterly lost. I failed to save the city, and I am slain to their meager plot. If humanity is so belligerent on their path to self-destruction, so completely bereft of will and reason, then let them! Let them throw themselves into the abyss in the name of a higher purpose, let them facilitate their own cruel justice!

The Dragon's life slowly fades from its eyes.

Wizard:

Good riddance.

Paladin:

What?!

Wizard:

The beast was right, but not morally. Great good requires great sacrifice, and what better good is there than to allow a god to set foot upon our repugnant plane, and cleanse of filth that is man? What is a more meager sacrifice than sentencing a sinner to the plane in which they belong.

Paladin:

What do you mean sinners? Those were innocents, who lived their lives in the name of the above and had good in their hearts!

Wizard:

Is the ant which digs its burrow and leaves its filth within hallowed ground truly innocent? I think not. And so I exterminated them as one would do with any foul infestation. I burned it off the land with righteous flame. However, my words are wasted upon the likes of you. On that note, I shall take my leave of you.

The Wizard vanishes into thin air.

Exit Wizard.

Paladin:

What? How? How is he just gone? Why?

Ranger:

I am truly sorry to interrupt your addled state, but my honor compels me to enlighten you of my true motive for joining this fine hunt, although I have not truly lied to you. I am in fact a hunter, but not of the animals of the forest, but of men. At first, I thought it was the dragon who suddenly removed my supply of prey, and the dragon had to be stopped. As you can see, however, 'twas not the dragon at fault, but the wizard instead.

Paladin:

You too? Why do you perpetrate such evil? Why do you kill your fellow man?

Ranger:

Is it truly so wrong? Man hunts innocent animals for sport, animals who have their own lives? Their own loves? Does man truly think himself so superior that it is evil for he himself to be hunted, despite his own actions? Are we so just for slaughtering a beast that was merely feeding itself? I think this is a great injustice, and one I mean to correct. However, I sense my opinion has not been well received. I shall take my leave of you posthaste then. May you have pleasant travels.

The Ranger exits.

The Paladin falls to his knees utterly distraught.

Enter the Eldritch Horror, unseen by the Paladin.

Eldritch Horror:

I see the paragon of holiness has now been privy to the darkness that lieth within the heart of man and is the weakness with which I will turn them against themselves, and it shall be the lever that pries open the gates between worlds, and shall allow me to conquer this plan. Will he become disillusioned with his naive ideals of humanity and become one of my apostles, or will he be crushed underfoot, like the innocents he has so dearly sworn to protect?

The Man from Within
By Owen Lee

Scene One

New York City. Enter Sarah Jones and Chris Chropple, microphone in hand.

Chris: Chris Chropple here, reporting live for Channel 7 news. I'm here with Sarah Jones in New York City. Sarah, what do you have to say about the earthquake that just hit us?

Sarah: Well, Chris, it was unexpected to say the least. Obviously, we don't get many earthquakes around here, so there was a fair amount of confusion and panic.

Chris: You can say that again. Now, did you see anything out of the ordinary when it happened?

Sarah: Not really, aside from the monkeys breaking loose from the zoo and the man emerging from a crack in the street.

Chris: *(Dumbfounded)* Excuse me? Elaborate on this man.

Sarah: Oh, well, he was pretty big, and he didn't look he was from around here.

Chris: There certainly are some strange things brewing in the big apple.

Sarah: *(Pointing off into the distance)* Wait! There he is, right there!

A man has appeared. Chris and Sarah run to The Man. They stumble to a halt in his imposing presence.

Chris: Sarah, I believe you left out a few details - maybe the ones about this man being eight feet tall and made of pure muscle?

Sarah: Did I forget to mention his gray skin too?

The Man: Silence, fools. You bore me with your insolent babbling.

Sarah: Who are you?

The Man: My name is Thrymm. I have ascended from the great kingdom of Agartha, known to you people as the center of the earth. I come with peace in mind, and I plan on helping your world become the best it can be.

[Aside] I will shape their world into something they *never* could have imagined.

Chris: Well, Thrymm, you seem like a jolly fellow. Anything we can do to help?

Thrymm: Would you be so kind as to point me in the direction of your leader? This “president” that I have heard mention of?

Sarah: *(Pointing south)* You’ll find her in Washington, D.C.

Thrymm: My thanks to both of you.

All but Thrymm exit.

Thrymm: They truly are pathetic little creatures. They know *nothing* of what this world truly has to offer. Their brutish tendencies have been a burden on our gracious Mother Earth, straining her for centuries on end, and for what? This feeble web of societies across the world held together by fraying string? It pales in comparison to my beautiful land of Agartha - superiority has been reached in every regard. We are stronger, we are smarter. We are *better*. These people of the Outside, they are of a flawed design. What is flawed, naturally, must be fixed. Yes, I come with peace in mind - my own type of peace - and to achieve that, I must raze these civilizations and begin the Reinvigoration. Soon, the Outside will be one with Agartha.

Scene Two

The Oval Office of the White House. Enter President Stevens and her Vice President Jones.

Stevens: *(Sitting down)* Should we be worried about this Thrymm character? It’s certainly not normal for men - if you can call him one - to appear out of the street.

Jones: I say this is nothing to fret over. After all, he does seem to want to improve living conditions for everyone. The people should like that you support that. And, in my opinion, it’s pretty obvious that the people would like to see you do something that will benefit them for once.

Stevens: That’s a fair point; however, I must remind you that this is a powerful being. There has to be some sort of catch, because I refuse to believe that he only has good intentions. We must stay cautious.

Jones: Very well. I'll bring him in.

Jones walks to the door, opens it, and leads Thrymm into the office. Thrymm remains standing in front of the presidential desk. Jones sits.

Stevens: Mr. Thrymm, I presume? I am President Stevens. It is a pleasure to meet you. *(To Jones)* Jones, if you could take notes please?

Jones: *(Takes out pen and paper)* Of course.

Thrymm: Ma'am. Before you go any further, I would like to get straight to my point. I'm here on behalf of Agartha, the greatest civilization that you have never seen. We reside in the center of the earth. Your world, the "Outside" as we Agarthans call it, is very poorly constructed. I have come to remedy that. In two short days, I will begin what I call the Reinvigoration. I will erase your world and rebuild it in the image of mine. Your compliance would be appreciated.

Stevens: *(Stares at Thrymm for a moment)* Absolutely not. Mr. Thrymm, have we "Outsiders" ever approached your kind and stated that we will destroy your world to make a better one? *(Pause)* I didn't think so. And yet you have the audacity to come into my office to do just that? It's utterly baffling. It's funny, even. To think that I, the president of the United States, would simply throw away the world as I know it in hopes that it would come back new and improved has to be one of the lowest insults you could possibly have thrown at me. In case you have not heard me clearly, absolutely not.

Jones: I second that.

Thrymm: Ha! In the mind of every leader there is room to bargain. I prepared for your stubbornness. Thus, per Agarthan tradition, we will hold trial by combat. I will fight against one adversary of your choosing in your finest arena. If you haven't realized it already, your choice will represent every nation of the Outside.

Stevens: Mr. Thrymm, how could we stand a chance? There is no human alive that is anywhere near your level!

[Aside] Not that the general public knows about, at least.

Thrymm: *(Smirking)* It is what it is. I trust you'll be able to find someone who will at least make it fun.

Exit Thrymm.

Jones: This will be interesting. I'm fairly certain you sold that quite well.

Stevens: Good, I thought the same.

Both stand up.

Stevens: Let's get to work.

Scene Three

Madison Square Garden set for a boxing match. Enter Thrymm into one corner of the ring, and a hooded figure into another, both wearing gloves. President Stevens and Vice President Jones are in the hooded figure's corner. Chris Chropple is covering/officiating the event and is in the ring as well.

Chris: Chris Chropple here, Channel 7 News. Folks, you're about to witness the biggest showdown of the century - heck, of the last 5 centuries! We've got a behemoth of a man from inside the earth fighting for the right to completely replace our world as we know it! Right now, the only person standing in his way is our own fighter, who is yet to be unmasked. President Stevens has handpicked this fighter herself, and we can only pray that she made this decision carefully.

Stevens: Jones, it's time.

Jones nods, and takes the hood off of the fighter. The crowd (everyone) gasps.

Chris: Holy smokes! Ladies and gentlemen, are you seeing what I'm seeing? A supersoldier clone of Muhammad Ali in ultimate physical condition? And two feet taller?

Stevens: You're exactly right, Chropple. We had him created back in the day, just as a little precautionary measure. You know, in case something like this were to happen.

Thrymm: Hmph.

[Aside] I didn't think they were capable of such things.

Chris: Well, maybe we do have a fighting chance after all! Fighters, are you ready?

Thrymm: Always.

Supersoldier Ali: Of course.

Chris: Fight!

Thrymm and Ali circle around each other as if eyeing the competition. Thrymm approaches and Ali raises his gloves. Before Thrymm can strike, Supersoldier Ali delivers a lightning-fast jab and right-hook, sending Thrymm crashing to the ground. He is knocked out, and the fight is over as quickly as it began.

Stevens: I knew he'd come in handy some day.

Jones: That was *beautiful*.

Chris: And we have a winner! With a textbook knockout, Supersoldier Ali is victorious! Ali, I just want to say, on behalf of the entire world, you're our savior. It's because of you that we'll continue to maintain our own unique world separate from Agartha!

Thrymm wakes up and gets his bearings. He approaches Chris and Ali.

Thrymm: You have proved a worthy opponent, and for that, you have my utmost respect. A deal is a deal, and I shall now return to my beloved kingdom beneath the earth's surface. Perhaps one day, you all shall see its beauty. Perhaps. If that day shall ever come, my people will welcome you with open arms, and we will gladly carry out the Reinvigoration of your world so we can become sister worlds in harmony. For now, farewell. From Agartha I came, and to Agartha I shall return.

Thrymm disappears. The End.

The King of the Land (and the Sea?)
By Grace Swanson

Scene 1

We start on a boardwalk parallel to the beach, where there are no people nearby. It is likely around 2 in the afternoon. The shops at the boardwalk are boarded up or closed, and it looks like the beach is deserted. Enter Tyler Blevins, aka 'Ninja'. He is talking to himself. There are no shoes or socks on his feet. He needs a shower.

Ninja- Why is it that we, humans, must go through suffering and pain. I'll tell you why. It is because we were born with legs. Our feet connected to the ground all day, everyday. We stick our flags in the dirt, place the logs of our houses into the clay. For thousands of years, we have rooted ourselves to only one possibility. Today, I'll be setting an example for all mankind. Today is the day we take the human race to the water!

Ninja has forgotten what boats are.

Ninja- Do you see this crown on my head? *Indicates to crown* This is the true sign of the King of the Land! It makes me sad, almost melancholy to vamoose from the land forever, but it must be done.

Scene ends with Ninja walking away from the boardwalk towards the beach.

Scene Two

Ninja is on the shoreline, looking out into the ocean. He seems to be getting mentally ready for this moment. Suddenly, he sees a translucent blob on the sand. He walks over to the blob.

Ninja- Hello creature of infinite beauty. What brings you to the beach at this hour?

Ninja just so happens to be addressing a dead jellyfish that has washed up onto the shore. He believes it is not only alive, but is sentient and capable of speech.

Ninja- My name is Tyler Blevins, also known as Ninja. You may have heard of me. *(long pause)* I would love to know your name.

Jellyfish- I don't have a name

Ninja (*aside*)- Of course the jellyfish does not have a name. Humans are the ultimate species and jellyfish have not evolved enough to have a need for recognition by assigning names to one another. I suppose this jellyfish will also believe that there is no possibility for a human to have gills. Or that if we did have gills it would be because we have devolved. Neither is the case.

Jellyfish- What are you doing here Tyler?

Ninja- *chuckles and starts to pace back and forth* O creature of succulent knowledge. O, translucent mass that sits here before me. You really must not know the secret that the earth has been hiding from us. Do you know? While creatures evolved to walk on land, it was through the will of those who stayed in the water. There is no benefit to walking, to living on land. Most of the sea is unexplored by humans. Why is that? The sea creatures are hiding real civilizations from us! There is no peace on land, thus I must leave. I was the King of the Land, and I will now be the King of the Sea, making me the King of the World!

Jellyfish- How do you expect to live in the ocean?

Ninja- O sweet naive jellyfish. Humans have always had gills. None of them have believed hard enough to make the gills come out, which is why people drown. I am the first to believe this in many, many years. I will rule the Land and the Sea and make all creatures my faithful disciples.

Scene 3

Ninja is in the water. He has been swimming for about ten minutes. He gets a leg cramp and cries out in pain.

Ninja- “Arghhhghgghghg!”

He stops swimming for a moment to tread water. Suddenly, there is a ripple of water about ten meters from him. A fin appears from the water.

Ninja- Hello? Who's there?

Ninja starts to flail around hopelessly in the water, looking for the fin to appear again.

Shark- Hello Tyler Blevins from Fortnite.

Ninja- How do you know who I am? Are you my first disciple, ready to worship me and do backflips on my command?

Shark- No. I want to eat you.

Ninja looks shocked. In fact, his jaw hits the ocean floor as if he is in a cartoon. Humans should not be able to do that.

Ninja- What do you mean? I am your King! You must bow down to me!

Shark- I haven't caught anything to eat in nearly a week. I have to eat you or I will die.

Ninja- How about a bet?

Shark- A bet?

Ninja- *obnoxiously upset* Yes. A bet. I swim under the water, grow gills, and can breathe under the water and you don't eat me.

Shark- Alright... I'll accept that bet. *aside* This guy is insane.

Ninja stops treading water and sinks below the waves. He starts to inhale water in his lungs and has his eyes closed, as if he is concentrating very hard on growing gills. It seems as if he is going to lose this bet.

Shark- Well, as the narrator said, it seems as if he's going to lose this bet. Time to feast!

Suddenly, Ninja opens his icy blue eyes and plasters a grin on his face. There are lines on his neck, closing and opening. His chest is moving up and down, and there seems to be webbed lining in between his toes.

Ninja- Ha! I knew it! Humans can grow gills and live under the water! Now I will rule the land and the sea for the rest of eternity! *Fatigue appears on Ninja's face, and he yawns from under the water.*

Shark- Well Tyler, it seems as if you won. Congratulations on becoming King.

Ninja- Why thank you shark. *Ninja yawns again.* Now, I think I'll shut my eyes for a while. I won, I won, I won...

Ninja fell asleep muttering “I won”. He did not, in fact, win. Actually, he never grew gills or webbed feet. He dreamed that after going under the water. He dreamed of the shark telling him he won because he so badly wanted validation. Ninja did not win the bet, and the shark ate him. Ninja was the last human left on Earth.

El (shark) Fin

Leezus the Hero
By Dahnavin Hurlbert

Scene 1

Enter Goon 1 and Goon 2, The Evil King and Leezus (in a bush)

THE EVIL KING (*quietly*) Have you made sure that no one is around to hear?

GOON 1 Of course sir, now what has you in such urgency and distress?

GOON 2 Yes sir, what is the need for this secret meeting?

THE EVIL KING I've locked my daughter away in the depths of the royal crypt.

GOON 2 (gasps loudly) What?!?

GOON 1 But why, my good lord?

LEEZUS [*aside*] (*In a whisper*) He put his own daughter in a foul place like that?

THE EVIL KING Keep your voices down! It is for reasons that the likes of you could never understand. Question me again and I will have your heads. Now, listen to me closely.

GOON 1 Our apologies, my lord.

THE EVIL KING I need the two of you to ensure that she does not leave this crypt. I have to leave the kingdom for a short time and I cannot have her meddling about while I'm gone.

GOON 2 The entrance of the crypt will be guarded by me and my trusty sword!

GOON 1 I will use the art of disguise to keep the princess in captivity!

THE EVIL KING (Flicks both goons foreheads) I don't care how you do it as long as the two of you don't mess it up. Now go! I need to be on my way.

GOON 1 & 2 Yes sir!

Exit all except for Leezus

LEEZUS A princess in danger calls for a hero to save her! And I, Leezus, am that hero. I have never failed to save a maiden in distress and I will not fail now. A crypt, even a royal one, is no match for the manliness and mightiness that I possess. Even a thousand spiders would fall at my hand. (*Swinging his sword wildly through the air*) Pfft, my blade could cut through millions of the terrifying little devils! I will find the daughter of the Evil King in the depths of his crypts and rescue her, no matter what! The Goon with the poofy hair will try to match my blade, but he will fail. I will not fall for any disguise that the other Goon may use to deceive me. Do not fret princess, I am coming!

Exit Leezus

Scene 2

Enter Leezus (arriving at the crypt entrance) and Goon 2

GOON 2 Halt! Do not come any closer! What business do you have here?

LEEZUS I am here for the princess!

GOON 2 There is no princess in the depths of this crypt behind the door at the end of the first hallway, so don't go in and look there! Leave here immediately!

LEEZUS [aside] This fool cannot be serious, maybe finding the princess will be even easier than I thought.

GOON 2 I said leave, you imbecile! I'm not afraid to use my sword! (unsheathes sword) Who are you anyway?

LEEZUS I am Leezus, a righteous hero, and I will not leave without saving the princess.

GOON 2 I have heard that name before, but even a hero is no match for me! I will serve the King 'till the day I die and become the mightiest royal warrior there has ever been! I have studied the way of the blade extensively; I know of every sword-fighting technique that has ever been used. I have never lost a battle, (though I've never really been in one), and I will never lose one! The King will love me after I tell him that I successfully defeated a hero. If you will not leave then we will fight, Leezus, and our battle will be legendary!

{They fight, and after some time Goon 2 is thrown to the ground}

LEEZUS I expected more out of you after all that talk. Submit, or I will have to put an end to you and your efforts to be a knight!

GOON 2 I will never submit!

{Leezus kills Goon 2}

LEEZUS Now, into the crypt I go.

Exit Leezus

Scene 3

Enter Leezus

LEEZUS Princess! Princess! Where are you?

GOON 1 (disguised as the princess) I am here! Who goes there?

LEEZUS I am Leezus, a great hero, and I am here to save you!

GOON 1 I'm in no need of saving, hero, you can turn back now.

LEEZUS But I thought you were locked down here and neede-- wait a minute, you're no princess!

GOON 1 (Takes off wig) How did you know I was only wearing a disguise?

LEEZUS Well I was only fooled for a moment because there's not much light in a crypt, a wig isn't really much of a disguise.

GOON 1 (gasps) Don't make fun of me or my wigs! You know what, I'm leaving, have your princess!

{Goon 1 exits, crying loudly}

LEEZUS Uhm, well, okay. That was easy enough. Princess! Are you there?

PRINCESS Yes, my hero! I'm right here!

LEEZUS Well hello, beautiful princess. I've come to save you, let's get out of here.

{Leezus and the Princess reach the exit, but the door won't open}

LEEZUS Oh no! That goon with the wig must've locked the door, but don't worry Princess, I'll find us a way out of here.

PRINCESS If only we had some sort of magical item that could allow us to teleport out of here.

{An amulet appears out of thin air}

LEEZUS Let's hold onto this amulet that just appeared!

PRINCESS Good idea!

{They teleport outside}

LEEZUS I have saved the princess!

The End

You

Are

Here

2023