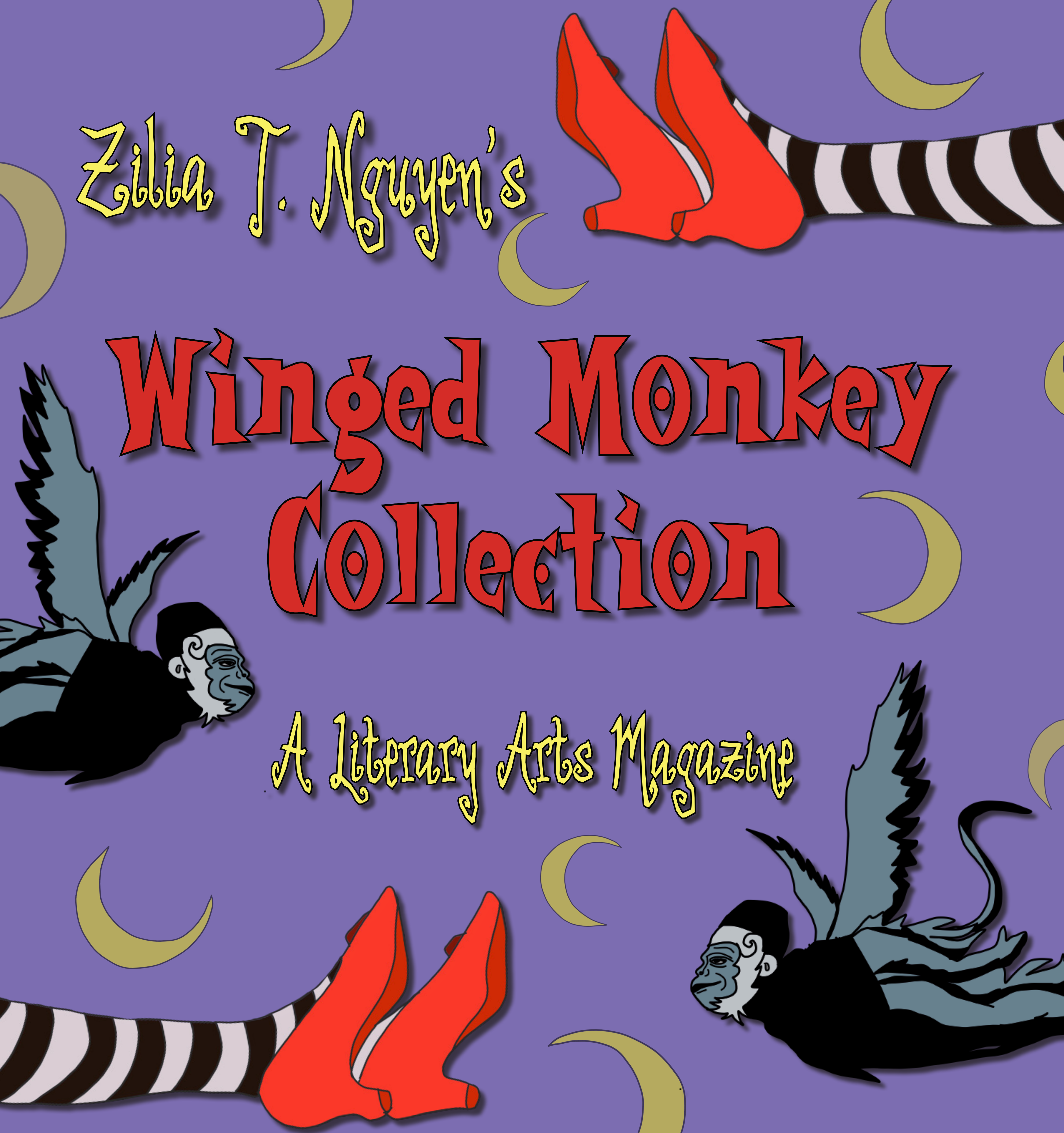


Zilia T. Nguyen's

Winged Monkey Collection

A Literary Arts Magazine



Author's Note

The winged monkeys on the cover, from the film *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), serve as a representation of the recurring notion of subjugation the characters experience in this series of my written works. As the winged monkeys undergo limitations in regards to their freedom, so do my protagonists. The protagonists are confined and restricted by internal or external factors. Whether it be famine as a result of governmental incompetence, mental disease as a consequence of societal expectations, or biological situations such as being a conjoined twin. Because of this parallel of restrictions, I found the winged monkey to be the most ideal symbol for my literary arts collection. I also wanted to create artworks as well and so I fused my writing with digital art made on Illustrator using InDesign. My writing focuses on offbeat topics and I combined these stories with more lighthearted imagery to create a juxtaposition between the two in hopes that the result would be a nice and intriguing balance. I hope you enjoy these pieces or at least find them interesting!

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MUSHROOM SOUP FOR THE BASTARD

After the Vietnamese Famine of 1945 & PTA's film Phantom Thread

During the famine

My husband ate our baby

Shroom soup will end him.

Our child was three pounds

He had thirteen purple toes

And small planet eyes.



A PEACHY VOCATION!

After the fear of unemployment

There's an ear in the porridge
Lola's hairs are snakes
She's selling broths and daydreams
For as long as it must take.
But as she's there, her TV set keeps crawling
The lamp laughs, as the door puts on a vest —
The eyes on the painting above the toilet are bawling
And the book case is making a mess.

Fantasy man, and strawberry jam
Knocks on doors, nobody answers —
This wind could kill a mammoth on skates
Or vaseline covered vipers.
Nothing was sold, and so she thought
About her pissing plants
And her forks being drowned by the pot.
“I need to make a living,”
She mumbled,
But all she did was walk back home.

Her couch purred and the heater sang a tune —
She stroked the curtain and it let out a chirp.
The book projected a film
A politician was baking a cake
But there was something
His face covered the screen the whole take.
And slowly he spoke, and she looked real close
He said,
“Get a job, you sick prick fuck.”
Her mouth was opened wide, and a river of drool
Gushed out —
She screamed,
“Work as what, big man?”

The TV stopped crawling, the lamp didn't laugh
The door took off his vest.
The painting no longer cried, and the bookcase
Stopped making a mess.
They all looked at Lola, and softly said,

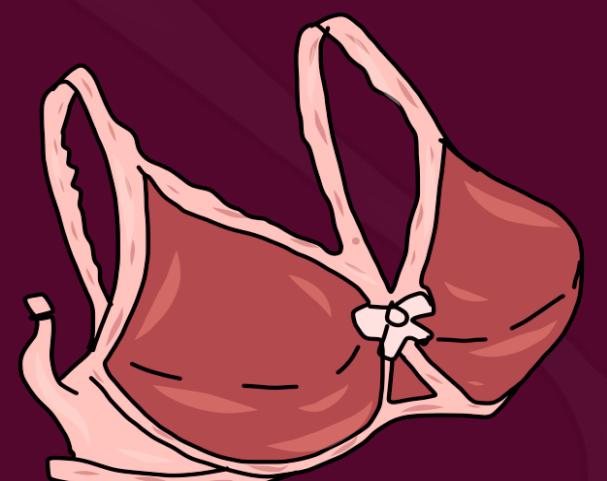
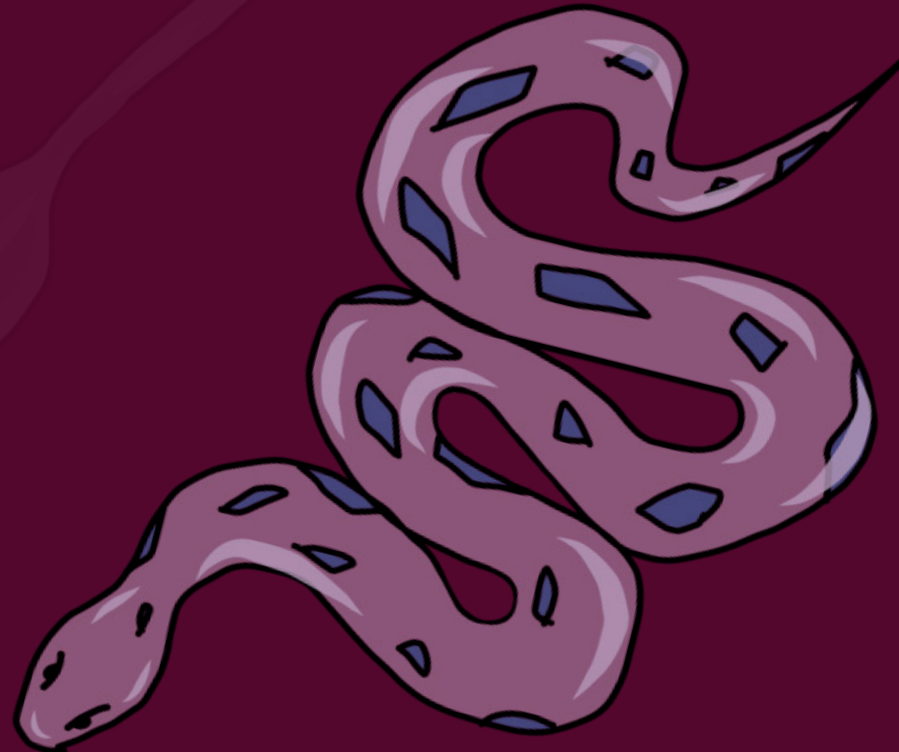
“You could be a hairdresser or a worm eater
A cowboy or a milkman
The local whore or a spinster
A pianist or a tooth artist.
Maybe even a garbage truck.
A soldier.
Or perhaps an insect farmer —
But be aware, it's year of the rat.”

She put her broths and daydreams
Fantasy man and strawberry jam
Back into her basket.
She announced,
And made a big racket —
“I'll never sell a damn thing ever again!”
She cut the snakes off her head
And soon fed them to the mattress.

She grabbed a spoon and the the spoon
Wept quite heavy.
She scooped out her left eye
And ran to the nearest levee.
“I know what I'll be!”
She exclaimed,
And took the bus to the grocery store
Where she stole a butcher knife
And within the store was great strife.
Now she ran to the clothing shop

And hid mismatching fabrics and lace
Inside her breast pocket.
She snuck into the dressing room
And cut off her clothes
Without any sense of doom.
She made an eyepatch
Out of a brassiere
And tied a black jacket around her head.
She smashed her face against the floor and lost
Her two front teeth without dread.
She grabbed the butcher knife and hacked
Off her right ankle and oh boy —
How it bled and cracked!

She limped outside and into the aisles
Where children screamed and jumped into
Clothing piles
Lola laughed quite wildly and then calmly said,
“Don't worry, papa, I am now an employed pirate.”



After Amelia Earhart and Jonze's film Being John Malkovich

THE INSANE AEROPLANE



Lightning struck the plane and ruined a propeller, and
So slowly they started to nosedive.

Amadeus was trying to cry, scream, and shake,
But Amelia started to blink her lights, she kept flashing,

..- .- - - .- .- .-
...- - - ...

Earhart couldn't control the plane, Amadeus couldn't
Control her.

The plane hit the ocean and so it all began.

The three of them struggled but soon had a hold on
Some sort of debris.

They were all determined to not be found dead at sea.
For hours, maybe days, they floated and swam
Through the waters.
Until finally, they drifted onto an island which had
Plenty of pregnant possums and fruit trees.

Amelia missed her husband from back home, but
There was no sign of going back.
She wanted children and fortunately fell for her
Partner and so they shared the sack.
They raised twenty one children and started their own
Cult, called the Wolfgang Pack.
They all wore bright yellow and sang songs in circles
And would jokingly march like the Turks.

Amadeus grew accustomed to his hammer and sickle
And no longer cared that he was trapped.
He always looked over the children as they ate pig
Heads and napped.

But suddenly there was a jerk and a slam, a scream
And cry. Amadeus was spit out of the dryer machine. He
Thought, "What the fuck was that?" He shrugged it all off and
Started to fold.

Inside of his head was poor Amelia Earhart screaming, "What's
this?"

Amadeus was pouring detergent into the washing machine,
But the dumbass accidentally fell in.
The lid was soon sealed shut and the cycle began to spin.
The washer cycle stopped,
He blinked twice but was now in different skin and was flying over
West Berlin.

His hair was still short, but he had a leather cap and goggles.
He overheard the radio, a man said, "Bring the aircraft to land,
Pussycat."

Little Amadeus was confused, and the inside of the
Aircraft smelled like strawberry tart.
He felt around and now had tits around his heart.
He Looked at his hands and had golden gloves that
Looked like a work of art.
He could hardly control his body.
He looked into the mirror, and to his surprise, he was
Inside the brain of Amelia Earhart!

Earhart spoke, "I'm coming down, dickhead."
Amadeus tried to talk and move some more, but
Amelia's body would no longer take note of his mental command.

AMELIA EARHART TO FLY AROUND THE WORLD is
What the papers read.
Amelia sunk into her bedspread and smothered tuna
Fish on a piece of soggy cornbread.

Amadeus was trying to escape.
But he could not see anything, as if he'd been
Smothered by a velvet drape.
He could make her arms move slightly every now
And then, or softly make her whisper, "cow shit."
But nothing really worked.

BLACKBEARD AND HIS LITTLE DILEMMA

After the poor kids who pursued unwanted careers



BLACKBEARD WASNT TERRIFYING AT ALL.



HE MADE LOVE TO HIS CREW MATES. His favorite partner was called Sufkavich, he was a two hundred pound man who was missing his right arm and only spoke Danish.

BLACKBEARD WOULD BRAID BLIND WOMENS HAIR, and play hopscotch with the school children outside of the leather shoe shop. He'd even buy them sweets by the pound.

ON WEEKENDS HE BAKED VANILLA CAKES smothered in mango frosting for the elderly. Sometimes he'd play chess or read love poems as he painted his lips.

HIS PAJAMAS WERE SATIN PINK and his slippers had lace bowties. He hated rum and whisky, but loved the taste of strawberry lemonade and ginger tea.

HE ALWAYS DREAMT of owning a herd of sheep. Or becoming a school teacher who wore fancy exoctic suits. Maybe a whore.

BUT HIS FATHER forced him to become a pirate,

HIS PAPA BEAT HIM, scolded him, and humiliated him,

AND SO A MISERABLE PIRATE HE WAS.



A FUNKY FUNKY TUNE!!

After 50% of all marriages

Two skeletons

Are swimming through gelatin.
One bloke, the other a dame.
The lady is drowning - yet she asks,
"This is the afterlife,
You scummy cow?"

He cracks his neck and jaw
Knuckles and knees
And acts as if he never saw
His wife's mouth move at all.

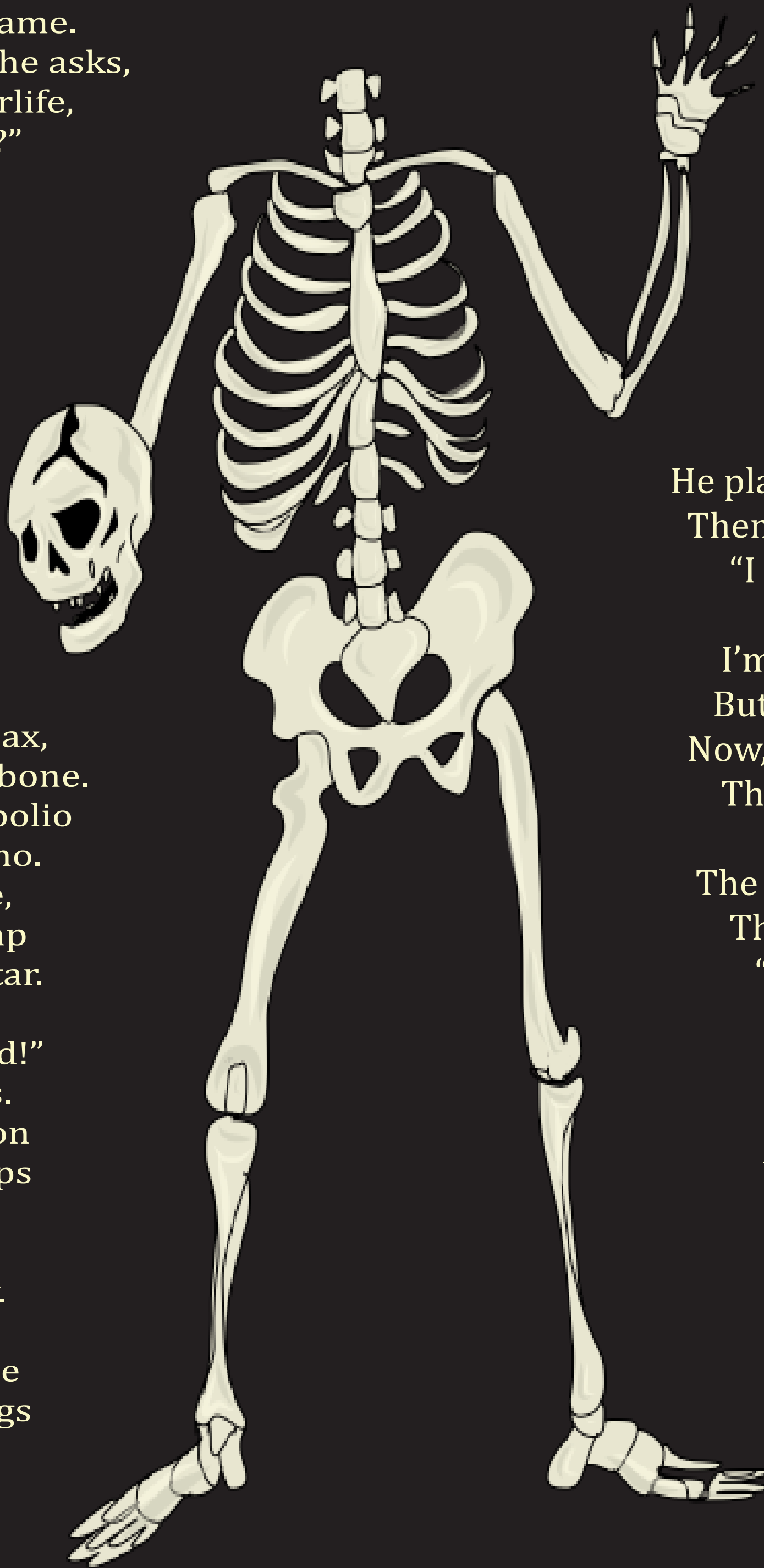
"Can you answer? Where
Are we, you pig fuck?"
She screams.
Her poor lad
Took off his skull
And carried it in his hands.
He looked into the distance
Where there stood a jazz band.

The sphinx played the sax,
The mermaid, the trombone.
The man with polio
Played the piano.
Hydra played the flute,
And a monkey with a limp
Was on guitar.

"What is this? I don't understand!"
She exclaims.
Her husband put his head back on
And placed his hands on his hips
As his head hung real low.
He took a deep breath
And looked at the show.

The floor began to tremble
And it seemed as if all of the frogs
Began to assemble.
Some fell from the sky
And all at once they questioned,
"Did you do your taxes?"
The gal gasped in horror
And wept.

"What's happened
To us, Clavicus?"



He threw his head back
And looked at the sign in neon
It read,
"Whore House."
He took a peek inside
But his woman pulled him right out.
And in disappointment
He ate the nearest mouse.

"Why won't you tell me what's going on?"
She said in desperation.

He played the xylophone on his teeth
Then finally spoke,
"I don't know what happened,
I don't know where we are,
I'm not sure why we're here,
But we've come quite far.
Now, can you shut the fuck up, lady?
This can't be all that bad."

The jazz band is playing a new tune,
They say,
"Here is where the spiders
Are on cocaine
And flowers cry tears of wine.
Children drink propane
And the violins have gone
Insane.
The bus driver violated the child,
And the caterpillars are quite vain."

He laughed and looked at his honey
And said,
"I think we've passed on,
My firefly."
She shrieked real loud
And jumped inside the septic tank.
Clavicus chuckled as she disappeared
And turned around
To wank.

A MILKSHAKE FOR THE SAILOR'S SAKE

After dehydrated sailors and Eggers' film The Lighthouse

CAPTAIN CANIS MAJOR slurred;
"Minnie Mouse is taking a piss in poor
Bambi's mouth.

The octopus rose from the ocean, he said,

"I'm betting that a Phoenician spaceship
Will soon be found down south.

I've got crabs in my curtain and carpet,
I'm brick red."

THE CAPTAIN ISN'T REALLY A CAP-
TAIN, he's fleeing the Babylon Brikes.

His true name is Dimitrius and his age is
Thirty one.

He stole a pair of jewelled underpants
That are decorated with stripes.

Did I mention that he also took a massive
Shit on the king's grandson?

DIMITRIUS MUMBLED,

"I saw seven catfish smoking
Cuban cigars,

And there was a colony of ants in my
Right ear.

I'd be Germany's best chocolatier, if only I
Could get there by car.

And this orange witch in a neon wig was
Reciting a bit of "King Lear?"

OUR PROTAGONIST HAS A LARGE
NOSE AND BLACK HAIR that goes
Down to there.

He looks like a homeless magician.

He grew up quite poor, his mother traded
Him in for a rotten pear.

Our boy has been lost at sea
For thirteen weeks and
Suffers from malnutrition.

THE CHARACTER WHISPERS,

"I've tried to cure my athletes foot by
Amputating my leg at the ankle,
I've eaten raw squid, my left arm, and
Seagulls.

My sunburnt cheeks helped me seduce the
Pin up angel.

And I'd fantasize about boning Norwegian
Mermaid skulls."

DIMITRIUS IS BRILLIANT WHEN
IT COMES TO SURVIVAL, he even

Had a handbook once.

He'd carry with him a golden compass and
A pound of licorice.

Long ago, he dreamt of attacking
The enemy's military fronts,

Or defeating the head general whose
Weakness was being ticklish.

LAND AHOY
BASTARDS,

Dimitrius begins to twitch,
He's dancing.

He's floating in his icebox
Slowly approaching the

Shore. He's stoked but
Ahead are two large

Lizards over six feet
In armour laughing.

Dimitrius stands and
Is wearing nothing

But the golden trunks,
He thinks he's in
El Salvador.

THE LIZARDS IN THE ARMOUR

Approach Dimitrius and begin to question,
"Where could we get those panties, good
Sir?"

"You can't find them anywhere, I need
Them to pay for my issues
With indigestion."

"Those drawers look oddly familiar, who
Are you, Monsieur?"

"I'M CAPTAIN CANIS MAJOR,
KING OF DAIRY.

I'm an ex political prisoner

Of those bloody blokes known as the
Babylon Brikes, and you are?"

"Well, you're in Babylon, and we're the
Brikes."

The two lizards opened their mouths and
Swallowed Dimitrius.

A star fell from the sky and screeched,

"Oh Fuck."





“Attention all shoppers!”
Is what echoed in the head of both
American Copper and Little Eyedropper.
The two had pigtails like any other girl,
But they had a bit of an issue,
Which would send cowboys into bloody whorls!

Together, they had two arms,
Twenty fingers,
And four legs.
But now it gets tricky, they only have one thinker.
Two ears, two lungs, and one heart.
Their cheeks are meshed together,
And surgery was the only way to set them apart.
Have you guessed it yet?

American Copper had a lover named Grasshopper.
He was learning to become a scientist.
His ideas were always moving around in his head, like some sort of helicopter.
He would make love to American Copper,
And blindfold Little Eyedropper.
Little Eyedropper would never notice, only American Copper could feel the flopper popper.

Poor Little Eyedropper couldn't hear, talk or even eat on her own.
But she could think,
Even if she could never hear the two moan.

Grasshopper wanted to marry American Copper and live on a prairie,
But something is stopping their marriage,
And it's not the perverted ferret.
Grasshopper told American Copper that
He wanted Little Eyedropper gone.
But she didn't understand.
Grasshopper slowly said,
“I read a textbook in class
Where you can separate conjoined
Twins by using airtags.
The pressure is so strong
It'll tear you apart!”

American Copper let out a huge cry and said,
“She has my brain, my heart, and lungs —
If you try to kill her, we'll both be slain!”
Grasshopper wiped away her tears and convincingly said,
“You won't be dead, I'm too smart.”

After moral crises and scientific discovery

WHICH WAY DOES THE COMPASS POINT?

American Copper stopped sobbing and started nodding.
“We'll do the surgery next month,”
He said, and so she agreed and went to bed.

Grasshopper's mama was dying of breast cancer,
His father fucked a girl half his age and left.
His mama used to be a ballerina dancer,
But now they were broke, starving, and scared.
Grasshopper was trying to save her, but he didn't graduate for another six years.
His mother only had two. They needed to pay medical bills quite soon.

Grasshopper's Biology class was in need of organs.
They were offering five grand a piece.
Possibly more if they came from Mormons.
The professor handed out sheets
To anybody who could possibly bring in parts.
Grasshopper grabbed one as he fantasized about the Subterranean Police.

Grasshopper kissed American Copper, as
Little Eyedropper had a blank stare.
It was three in the morning in the laboratory,
And he began to take them apart with great care.

He put them in Ziploc baggies,
And brought the paperwork to class.
Grasshopper was given fifty thousand in exchange,
But at that very moment, something happened that was quite strange.
Grasshopper's mama was at the store buying goose grease, then she had a stroke.
She was nude?

When told of the news,
Grasshopper couldn't believe his ears.
Everyone wanted interviews,
But he couldn't stop crying Hollywood tears!

Grasshopper ran to the community pool and jumped.
The fool couldn't swim.
But five midgets dove right in and pulled him right out.
Grasshopper smiled, and he could hear
The ambulance at the corner.
The paramedics were over his head,
Grasshopper smirked and said,
“I don't know my East from West,
I promise I won't be resisting arrest!”

EL FIN.

