

Transformation:
A Quaranzine

Writing and Artwork by youth at Youth Homes
and students of Free Verse in the Missoula County Juvenile
Detention Center, Billings Juvenile Detention Center, Ted
Lechner Youth Services Center, and Pine Hills Youth
Correctional Facility

July 2021

Cover Art by CP

Dreams

Dreams are like flashing beams. What does this mean
plz don't give me that lean they just want me to bleed.

They say I'm a dream catcher not a fetcher
who thought being called lame could get you fame.
I don't show no shame.
I just want to make it to the hall of fame
where I can be remembered forever.
Hey they say legends never die.
I hope they don't lie
Cuz I don't wanna die.

She told me I couldn't get off the grass for skipping class.
I won't be last but I'm going to have a blast.

She's my shooting star. I even have the scars.
I'm writing rhymes on my phone, I even feel like I'm alone
far from home. I have such a really good tone.
Plz don't let me be alone.

- Young N8tive



Art by B

The bad do not win
they gon' try to deceive you
but at the end of the day my
brotha it's all 'bout how i'm finna
succeed me.

They say make yourself proud
my brotha that's exactly what i'm
finna do and imma do it loud.

-BSE

Growing Down

At my age,
aging aggressively atomic atoms adhesively adding
Beginning bad 'n brazen habits
Creating caring colonies
Diggin' deeper down dimensional grounds
Exterminating bad frowns
Finding forgotten findings

-T



Art by KACP

A Question:

Hand in hand heart to heart why does it always have to get torn apart....?

-J

Gift

Before my grandfather died
he gave me his old acoustic guitar
and he told me when he gave it to me

*to always play from the heart,
do not allow anyone to bring you down,
when you're playing let the music
surround you and fill you with joy
and make you feel at peace.* This gift

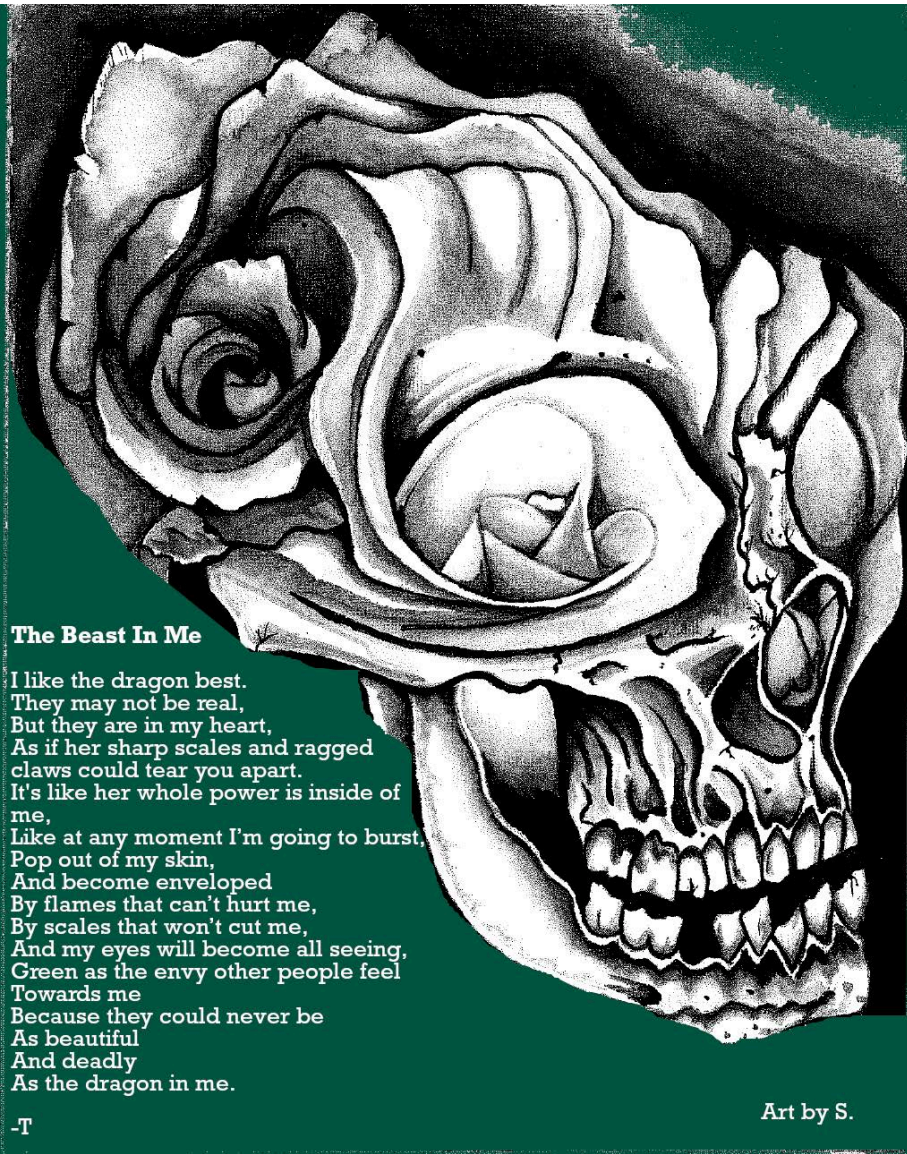
I still have and I play as much as I can,
always from the heart. The guitar goes
everywhere with me and I play for all
that ask. I feel like music is one way
to reach people in the darkest of places

so I will always play not only to fill
other people with laughter and happiness
but to remind me of how happy I was
when my grandfather used to play for me.

-A

fear, anger, pain, exhaustion, anxiety
anger has lived with me ever since
I could feel emotion it is like a brother
it gets me through the day helps me
with my workouts helps me deal
with my narcissistic and abusive father
fuels me to wake up everyday and deal
with whats to come gives me to the point
of exhaustion when I workout with it
helps me deal with the pain and fear of
this world without anger I'd be a scared
little boy which I know I am.

-AS



The Beast In Me

I like the dragon best.
They may not be real,
But they are in my heart,
As if her sharp scales and ragged
claws could tear you apart.
It's like her whole power is inside of
me,
Like at any moment I'm going to burst,
Pop out of my skin,
And become enveloped
By flames that can't hurt me,
By scales that won't cut me,
And my eyes will become all seeing,
Green as the envy other people feel
Towards me
Because they could never be
As beautiful
And deadly
As the dragon in me.

Art by S.

-T

The dragon inside!
The dragon that lives within
The rage and pain in which it feels
The cage in which it resides in
The pain in what it must endure
before it is set free

-AS

Up All Night

A lot of my homies
Say they will never change
Damn homie I respect that
& I also feel your pain
The only thing you got taught
As a kid is to grab gun metal
Do you remember those we used to peddle down the street
Staying up all night trying to get something to eat
Rest in peace my homie he be dead in a ditch
When that 40 popped off
I knew he ain't survive that shhh
And I just can't believe my homies still live like this
But you gotta do what you gotta do

-Youngster

I am

I am funny and caring.
I wonder what my life would be like if
I hadn't made these choices.
I hear my dad's voice.
I see the hurt in my family's eyes.
I want, I need, I am going to be better.
I am funny and caring.

I pretend everything is okay.
I feel scared and sad.
I touch the walls I have built.
I worry about a Tuesday or a Monday.
I cry at the sounds of my mother.
I am funny and caring.

I always hurt the ones I love.
I never intend to.
I taste the words I want to say but never can.
I used to not be like this.
I won't give up on who I want to be.

-CP

And be one traveler, long I stood
as I descended on a forever deserted path
the ground beneath my feet shook
knowing it was way too late to
change my mind and go back
in time to choose the other path
I fall to the ground and laugh at myself
because I have been on it far too long.
People won't consider askin' if I need help
cause I stole when I was starvin'.
They believed I was in the wrong.

-EM

Lost

I'm a man with no will
I can't buy food for myself
I can't go home when I want
I can't feel soft...
I'm a man with no will
They say no to simple things
They know what I want but won't
give
I can't get mad...
I'm a man with no will
I ask and ask and ask again
The answer is never the same
I can't get sad...
I'm a man with no will
They say I'm funny and cool
When I leave they talk bad about me

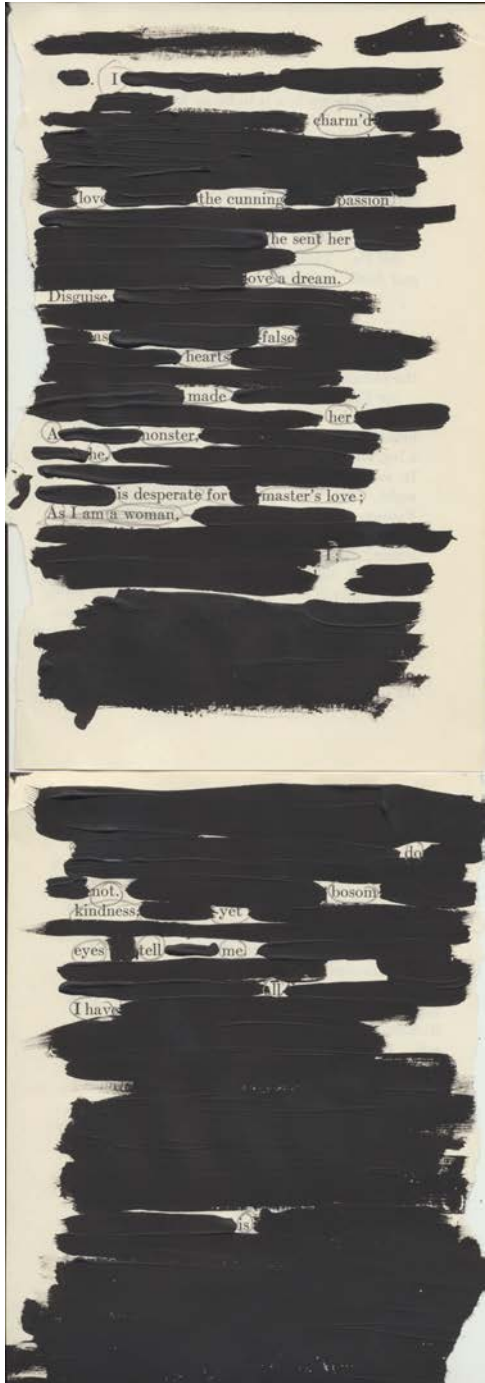
I can't blow up...
I'm a man with no will
They say get a job
I apply but no luck
I can't feel down...
They say get a life
I have one it may not
Be good but it's mine
I can't get depressed...
I'm a man with no will
They say go left
But I go right
Just to be disobedient
I can't feel lost...
I'm a man with no will.

-M

The Shadow

I am the darkness that cancels out the light
I am the shadow that's never in your sight
I am the darkness that seems to have arisen
I am the person you never seem to visit
I am the darkness that sits inside your heart
I am the curtain that always makes things dark
I am the darkness that leaves you all alone
I am the person that sits at home
I am the darkness that sits in a hole
I am the shadow that can never find a soul
I am the darkness that always makes mistakes
I am the feather that seems to stay in one place
I am the darkness that rules over your thoughts
I am the person that you never seem to give a thought
I am lonely as can be
I am the person you never seem to see
I am the person you never want to see
I am the person you never want to be
I am alone.

-SR



-CP



What I Made

I made myself confident
I made myself passionate
I made myself feel
I made myself know
I made myself grow
stronger
-C

Who I am

I was born on May 30
I am 5'6" and a half
I'm a sucker for learning
how to skate
I'm still learning
how to behave
I'm often skating or sleeping
I like very, very good banana splits
I've been told that a banana split
has one banana, but I don't believe that
People say that I have good taste in art
Maybe.
Secretly, I get really nervous every time I have to meet someone's
mom or dad
I have this odd fascination with the tendons in my body
I wonder if you can make a robot that has feelings
I enjoy skating and spending time with my friends,
But I don't allow myself to show how hurt I can be at times
I'm afraid that I can mentally hurt someone badly (why I don't
speak my mind)
My hobbies include skating, drawing, and anything fun
I don't know much but I do know this:
I want to explore everything
-T

Art by CP

WOLF

I would like to be a wolf due to the fact that they're big with family and they hunt as basically one big family and they are close

but it sadly will not happen

basically abused me for the past

and I'm at the point

As I said before

but it's what

in bad situations

whether it is a good person

the best decisions

If I could change my past

but since I cannot

I am going to make my future brighter

than my past

could ever be

-A-

I would

I would like something like that with my family

due to the fact that they have

five years

where I cannot take it anymore

life is rough

you choose to do

that makes you who you are

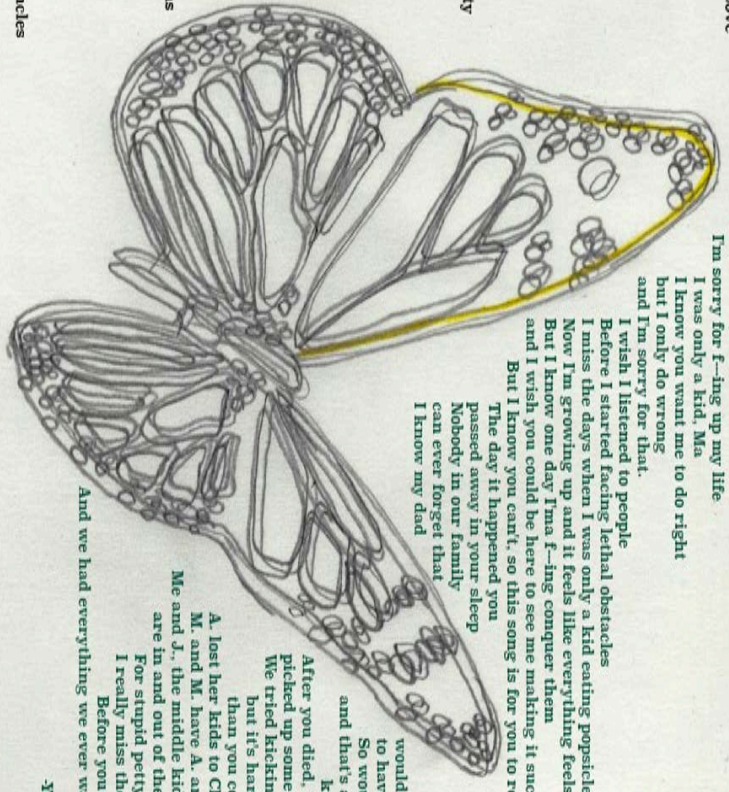
or a person who does not make

for themselves or for others.



Art by CP

Youngster



Dear Mom,
I'm sorry for f--ing up my life

I was only a kid, Ma
I know you want me to do right
but I only do wrong
and I'm sorry for that.

I wish I listened to people
Before I started facing lethal obstacles
I miss the days when I was only a kid eating popicles
Now I'm growing up and it feels like everything feels impossible
But I know one day I'ma f--ing conquer them
and I wish you could be here to see me making it successfully

But I know you can't, so this song is for you to rest in peace
The day it happened you
passed away in your sleep
Nobody in our family
can ever forget that
I know my dad

would do anything
to have you back
So would us kids
and that's a commonly
known fact
After you died, A., me, and J.
picked up some bad habits
We tried kicking them,
but it's harder
than you could fathom

A. lost her kids to CPS
M. and N. have A. and B.
Me and J., the middle kids,
are in and out of the pen
For stupid petty f--ing crimes
I really miss them times
Before you died
And we had everything we ever wanted or needed.

- Choosing Something to Love
- Food
 - Quesadilla
 - Steak
 - Bacon
 - Meat
 - Lindsay
 - Chocolate
 - Family
 - Deer
 - Whisper
 - Whisper's baby
 - Truth
 - Honesty
 - Christine
 - My mom
 - Opportunities
 - School
 - Life
 - Help
 - Poetry
 - Pencil
 - Paper
 - Bad people
 - Good people
 - All People
 - Acceptance
 - Movies
 - Music
 - Dreams
 - The mind
 - The heart
 - Feeling
 - Art
 - Books
 - My nephews
 - My sisters
 - My aunts and uncles
 - My cousins
 - And fuck
- CP

Peppermint

The abuse stayed happening. Cooking my mind
Like a chicken. It left me rocking back and forth between
My foot and my visions for my future. I watch my
Life over and over like a presentation. It slowly unfolds
Like a peppermint wrapper leaving the inside of my
Mouth freshly minted with trauma. Childhood gone by so
Fast that I didn't know what I had 'till I didn't
Have it.

-JamInJamIrez

Disc Eyes

He has white eyes under
Seeing himself in a different disguise
Seeing life as there is nothing to hide
Being blind by the bright-eye
Sing when I am different
Livin' life as I think I should
I'm living under a hood
Living in the mischievous night
Never seen, hidden from life.

-SR

I Believe Poem

i believe i am strong enough
to get through life
but there is always

I Believe

I believe I am strong enough
To get through life
But there are always
Doubts I believe I'll get
Out of prison but
It never works
No matter how much
I believe nothing ever
Happens I ask for
Help but all I get
Is silence when
I try to get out
Of the dark the
Walls move further

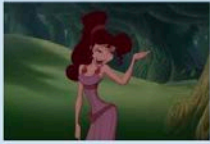
And further and
Further away but
No matter what happens
I still believe.

I believe the world is
A good place
But every where I go
Everyone fights or
The buildings are destroyed
I've seen death first hand and I
Never want to see it again
But no one listens
To my cries for help

-TD

Walls move farther
and farther and
farther away but
no matter what happens
i still believe

How Others See Me/How I See Myself



How my friends see me



How my parents see me



How society sees me



How my teachers see me



How I see myself

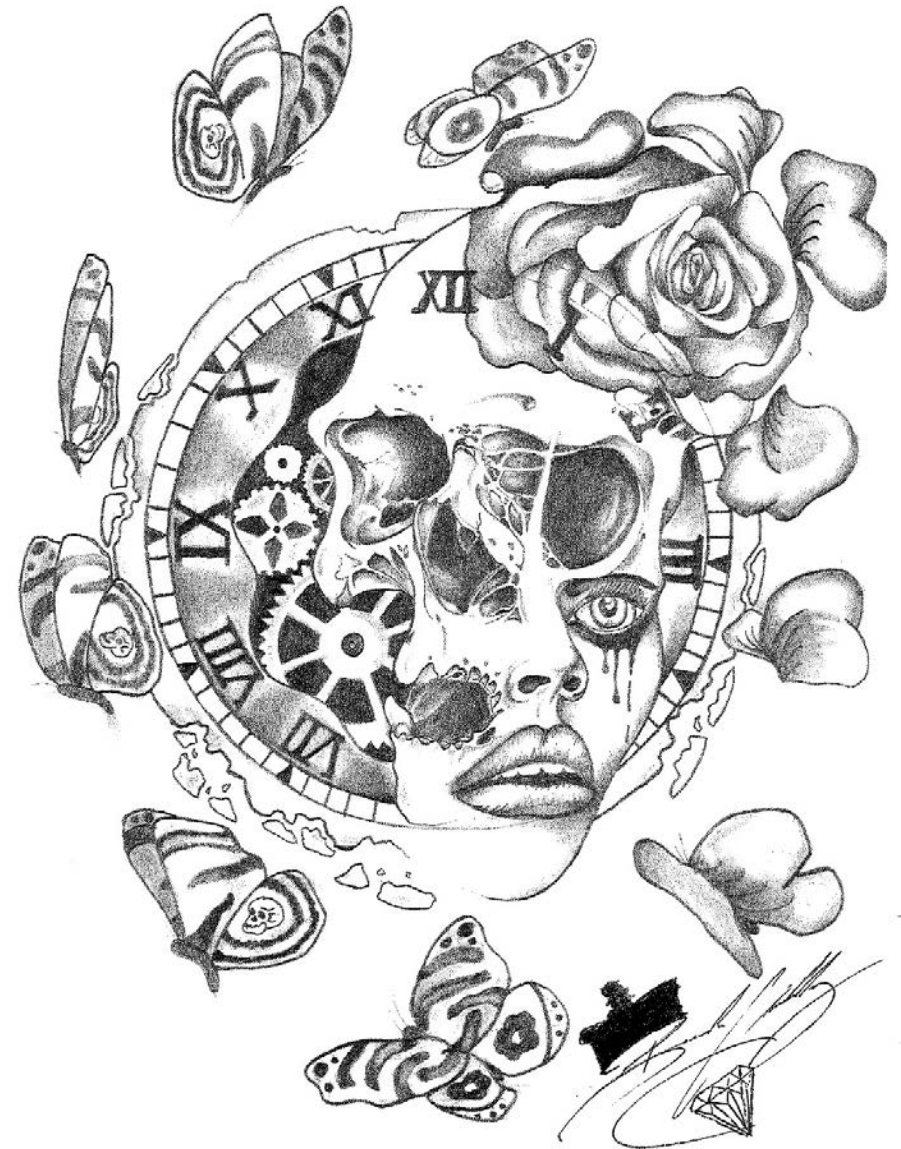


How I actually am

Drowning

Lately I've been feeling lost
nowhere I can turn all the lines are crossed
everything's collapsing I'm a pile of dust
I don't know what to do there's no one I can trust
not even friends not even family
I don't have anybody in this fantasy
and everything I do is making my life worse
I want to cut my arms because happiness should hurt
but if I do that will it release the pain
cuz I can't stand these voices that whisper in my brain
or maybe I should throw myself in front of a train
because I'm drowning in emotion
I'm drowning in my fear
I'm drowning in confusion
I'm drowning in my tears.

-EBR



The best and **most beautiful**
things in the world
cannot be seen or even touched -
they must be **felt with the heart.**

- Helen Keller



Giving

I cannot give anymore

What

I cannot give anymore

Why

But my whole personality is built around kindness, and if I can't give, then I'm what?

Stuck

So let's work this out

what's wrong with your heart

It won't come out, no it won't even start

Then moving on

What's wrong with your brain

It yearns for the past but it won't be the same

It's clear to see you have a disease

What's the disease?

Well, it's called Empathy

It means you'll give blood till there's none left to bleed

But I do not want to be kind

What

I only want to survive

No

This effort's exhausting, it's getting me nowhere

And where does that leave me?

Alone.

You do not have a choice

The honey slips into your voice

This is what you have to do

Embrace it before it kills you

-J

Hesitation

Damn, All this hesitation, got me in a sticky

Hesitation

Damn, all this hesitation, got me in a sticky situation, all this miscommunication, got me missing on my destination,

no one ever told me no congratulations, alls I know was grab a gun and enforce domination all this gushy shhh really got me hesitatin', while all the shhh in my head never seems to be resonatin'.

All this time after getting adjudicated, woulda made it, if I took my shhh seriously, that shhh got the best of me, and now I'm sittin' in the cell prayin that my brother rest these cops arrestin' me and they testin' me, while all they wanna know is my super secret recipe

I am the chess piece movin' in a million different directions, I'm thinking and reflectin', but I can't seem to send a message, this pain never lessens, I'm still learnin' all these lessons, while I'm askin' the right questions I just seem to be destined for the penitentiary, if that's where I'll even be sent, my mind crawlin' through a vent

got me livin' in my head, careful where you tread, while I dream about the bread, alls my mind can see is red, it's a sea of dread, got me heavy on the meds, got me layin' sick in bed

can't send a single text, can't seem to see if I'm blessed, leave the rest

let it on out, my high gone down, down into this state of mind

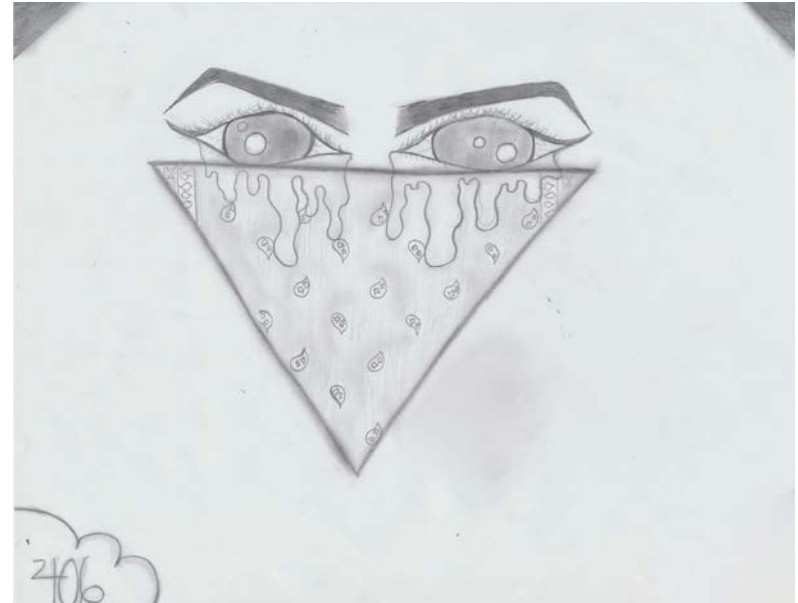
I'm wishin' and prayin' for a sign, a sign that my life'll end up all right, outta sight, flyin' high like a kite, into the night, but that's aight Imma pull up wit my guys, if you want it, it's a fight, but at the end of the night, we gonna still be right

hittin the grind, makin' sure I get out on time, can't spend a dime, without getting' a quarterback, can't be sittin' in Pine I need some order back, I'm stuck in these walls like a mine, but I never thought of that

they callin' me all white, but I'm 3/4 black OG's ancient but tight, they like my artifact, I'm sneakin' in the night, can't be caught by no border patrol.

-J

Can't send a single text, can't seem to see if I'm blessed,
leave the rest, let it on out, my high gone down,



Art by DH

Primate Pirate Pioneer

Here you are on a boat
 You're adrift
 You're afloat
 One might say you're stuck
 Well I don't want to gloat
 But I would like to note that you're in
 luck
 You've been saved by the ape
 That rules these waters
 So forget about your wives and
 daughters
 First mate, introduce me to them
 please.

He's big and scary, elegant and hairy
 Fear inspiring years of endearing
 Wheezing, stealing, banana peeling,
 Undisputed master of the sea.

Oh jeez that's me, 'tis he, that's me,
 'tis he
 That's me, 'tis he, okay, okay.

I'm a primate pirate pioneer and
 these are
 My brave buccaneers
 All of them were lost souls like you
 It's true he rescued us he saved our
 butts
 For that we owe our life to him
 And assuming he doesn't kill you
 You will owe him too

Here we are on a ship
 Moving at quite a clip
 Throw the other shifting ice
 Come along on the trip it's a heap
 That's a tip
 That's good advice
 In a world that's going under
 To survive we must turn to plunder
 Luckily that's my field of expertise
 He's the best

He's a robbing heathen we really
 should be leaving
 Weapin', thriving, we better get
 going.

-Anonymous

My Past

My father used to put down my dream
He said hit this pipe and just let it be
Cause when you grow up you gonna be just like me
Running from the law and raising your kids in the streets

Verse 1

I made a promise to myself that I would never be like him
No way in hell would I ever beat my kids
I'm gonna always be there for them
Hoping that they don't do the same things
That I did as a little kid
'Cause where that landed me was
Inside of the penitentiary
Imma do my best to keep my kids off the freakin' streets
Hopin' they don't come
Where they have to pick up the heat.

Verse 2

The shhh I did as a kid was unexplainable
I quit going to school 'cause I was incapable
Started selling drugs 'cause that shhh was inescapable
Now I'm thirsty and starving and there ain't no food on my table
Thinking about my past I know I was not the one this road was made for
People tryin' to take me out every damn day
All this hate building up cause I know I'll never be safe
Then my kids will have to deal with the pain
'Cause I know one day I'm gonna drop dead
I just hope they remember everything that I say
And take it to the grave just to make sure there's rain on it
Only remember the positives and none of the negatives.

Verse 3

My father never taught me anything cause
Growing up I was raised in a gang
Born into it but never took my claim
Growing I just wanted to rap
So I don't give a damn about my fame
I'm tired of this life so I gotta switch lanes
Even though as a kid I said I would always be the same
I'm finally maturing and my mentality is starting to change
Wanting to be a father figure that my father never was
Meaning I need to stop being selfish and doing drugs

And show my kids love that I've never known
No matter what they do they always be welcomed home.

Chorus x2

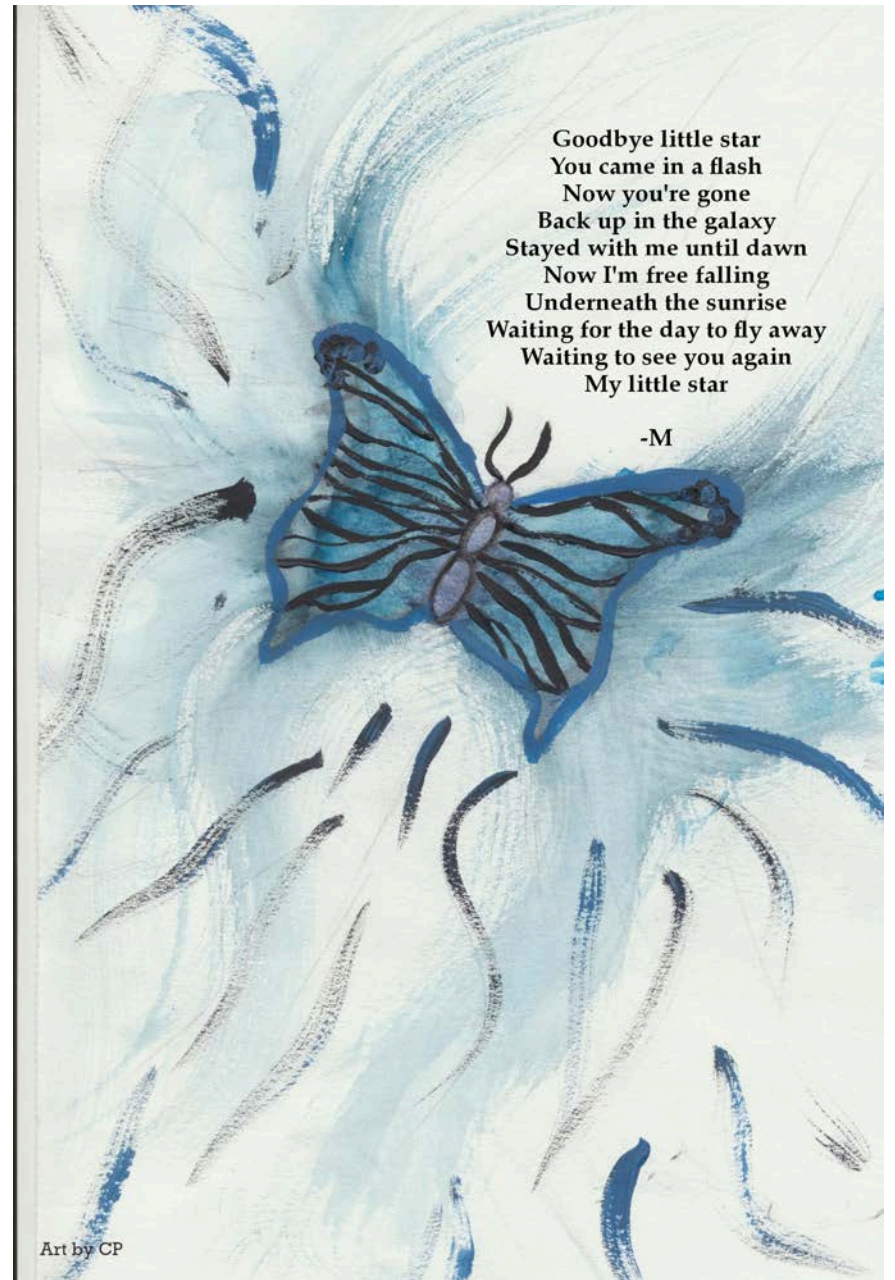
My father used to put down my dreams
He said hit this pipe and just let it be
Cause when you grow up you gonna' be just like me
Running from the law and raising your kids in the streets.

-EM





I AM Made OF Sorrow
 I AM Made OF Sorrow
 I AM Made OF broken dreams
 I AM Made OF FLESH and bone
 I AM Made OF THE Darkest corners
 OF Hell
~~I AM Made OF Loneliness~~
 I AM Made OF Loneliness



Goodbye little star
 You came in a flash
 Now you're gone
 Back up in the galaxy
 Stayed with me until dawn
 Now I'm free falling
 Underneath the sunrise
 Waiting for the day to fly away
 Waiting to see you again
 My little star

-M

Art by CP

Wika 2/11/2021

Life can be like a gold fish, you can keep swimming or
you can sit in one spot and spew bubbles. In one case life
can move on, or we can sit there & complain.

Goldfish

Life can be like a goldfish, you can keep swimming or you can sit in one spot and spew bubbles. In one case, we can move on, or we can sit there and complain.

Life can be like a good book. Have you ever read a book that you can't put down, or when you do, you think about it for five minutes before it's in your hands again?

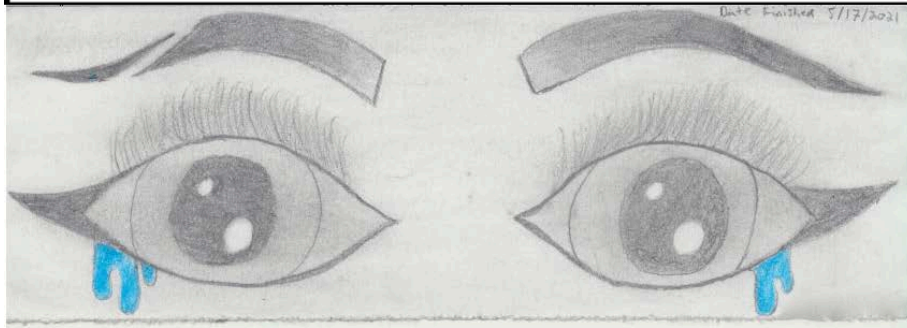
I'm not good at poems like you might not be good at sky diving, but the more you do it, I guess the more you learn.

("Practice makes perfect")—practice makes progress, don't ever let anybody think that it'll make you perfect. Because it won't.

Things in life can be or mean many different things. Don't let other people define you, make your own picture, not everything has to rhyme to make sense, to paint a picture of you.

Things can be good, things can be bad, what you make out of it is on you. Who cares if you don't have fancy clothes or jewelry, who cares if your mom can't take care of a goldfish, much less you, who cares if you're locked in jail 'till you're 18, at least you have clothes, at least you have somewhere to go, at least you get out at 18.

-W



Can't take care of a goldfish, much less you, who
cares if you're locked in jail 'till you're 18, at least you
have clothes, at least you have somewhere to go, at
least you get out @ 18,

Art by TB

Hearts

Aye, what is life without meaning if your heart is bleeding? I can be your comfort, they say I have been speeding, I tell myself if you are believing you're succeeding in life.

They told me to make better decisions. My momma wants to see me in front of the television instead of being in a car collision. I don't want to be in that position. I just want to become a musician and get that appreciation.

It's hot like Arizona, my city got Corona, I only bow to bros that got diplomas, catch a case, post bail, I flee to Tacoma where I might end up in a coma.

Lately I've been in my mind, I feel I'm faded every time you come around my heart is racing.

I'm grinding so hard I gotta make it, but you told me it's coming, so I'm patient. I've been in my mind. It's going to take some time. I'm Strong, I can't right my wrongs, so I write songs when you're by my side. I tell you that you're my baby. It's gonna boost my ego all the way up to the stars where the aliens are. I know we ain't hit the top, But girl, we grazing it. When I look into your eyes it looks so dang amazing.

-Young N8ive

A Friend Called Hope

I got kicked out of my dad's house when I was young
Nothing I could have done
I tried to fight tried to go back
But I guess that's my dad
Tried to find hope nothing came
After that I never felt the same
Nothing I could change
I just wanted to cry
Wanted to close my eyes and say goodbye
Just wanted to die
Took three lines went to a building
My friend saw what I was doing
He held me back and said,
"I would never feel the same if you were dead."
I cried and tried but he held me back
This is a f---ing fact
Right then and there I found my hope
I guess your friends
Are the best way to cope

-T

Art by CP

Rhyme Stine Freestyle

People call me rhyme-stine
I am not like Einstein
More or less like Frankenstein
Homeboy committed suicide
That's why I stopped getting high
Now I'm spending all this time
'Cause I was out committing crimes
Now I want a good life
Cannot be both sides
Made my girlfriend freaking cry
'Cause I was telling her lies
Saying I was doing good
But was doing too much drugs

Yes I started being dumb
Running with all these thugs
Gotta make 'em think I'm tough
Next thing I know I'm getting shut inside a box
Because the neighbors called the cops
Then the cops ran my name and I popped up as a runaway
Tired of doing all these drugs
Sick of getting freaking drunk
Running around at 3 a.m.
Now I'm on the run again
Thoughts of turning me in
But I know I won't do that shhh again
So I take another hit
And let my anxiety drift away
Knowing I got all this pain
Doin' it for me this lifestyle is gonna' change
Because it's driving me insane
I do shhh repetitively
I'm losing my insanity
When I was 10
Thought I was a disgrace to humanity
All because I was a white boy who grew up in poverty
Tryna' change my life around
For my mother in the ground
Know she wouldn't like seeing me stuck in the pound
If I used to do the shhh that I am doing now
She would look at me and smack me in my damn mouth.

-EM



Art by DH

We all have a dream
but we not Martin Luther King
we can do what we want if we
act as a team

IT - Emotion: Part Three (Continued from Issue 2)

Was 16 goin' through it all again
Gone for 10 months and fell in love
Fast again
We were in love and stuck
Surprised at my luck
Shoulda' took the hit
Never try to duck
Bloody on the floor
The resolution
To my marriage no more
Went away
Came back
With a plan of attack
Got a tack cut my wrists
Couldn't deal with the bliss
Didn't deserve
Quite a curb
Never feel superb
Got in fights
But stayed sober
Then I was deterred
Brother Sam was dead
I washed over like a blur
Started drinking
Trynna die
It was what I earned
Got some treatment
Knockin' on death's door
Moppin' up death's floor
Workin' my life wit every chore
Skin got tore
Beatin' out of bore
To a bloody pulp
That just like a cult
It was blue

You know who
Joined up red
Just to let my life go ahead
Almost dead
Now a rapper
Trynna make some bread
Hidin' from the feds
Keep my life on speed

[PAUSE]

Now 'bout 17 wit no dreams
Surprised I made it this far
Now gotta die hard
Now in jail
This is what I've learned
Don't take life for granted
If you do
You'll have marks
From the pain
From the guilt
From It
The never ending burn

- L

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