

The stories inside this issue are veiled narratives about their inner thoughts and beliefs, even though most of their stories are fantasy or quirky surrealism. They live in magical kingdoms-places where their subnormal lives can breathe and be more than human. Fiction becomes the only place where they can write happy endings, because so much has already happened to them.

Most of them have a strong desire to love and be loved, and for over an hour each morning, they write and discuss fiction with enthusiasm. It releases the creative imagination and calms them. It becomes a place where anything is possible, a place where they can be themselves-free of judgment, a place where they belong, where they can feel like part of a group, a place that reminds them that they are alive and things will get better.

I do not edit the stories or correct them in any way. They appear as the student typed them. Enjoy their imaginations!

Instead, she found herself face to face with her reflection in the mirror. She watched as her face transformed into a woman's face. She watched as her hands aged and her legs grew.

As she stood in awe of the woman before her, she realized it was she that she had run from. She'd been running from herself for years.

All she could do now was take a deep breath and move forward.

1... 2... 3... breathe. 1... 2... 3... breathe.

ISSUE 153

Everyone must learn before they die, what they are running from, what they're running to, and why."

-James Thurber

12.2.2011

**ARTWORK
BY AMBER**



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A tricycle sat on one side of the table, and an old phonograph on the shelf.

As she looked, an eerie feeling drifted across the room. What had happened in this home? Why were things abandoned in this manner? Who were the owners, and where were they now?

She grabbed a tablecloth for a dust rag and began to make her way toward the banister. She wanted to see the photographs that lined the staircase.

Slowly, as she cleared the dirt, the images became clear: a girl with her cat, a boy playing in the sand, a woman holding a baby, and a man in his military uniform.

Suddenly, she stopped cold. She stared ahead at a picture of herself.

No, that isn't possible. A picture of her covered in the dust of at least twenty years?

She began to panic. She felt a wave of nausea rush through her body. She began to run again. She ran down the hall, looking for an exit to no avail.

TO SAVE A LIFE BY AMBER



Once there was a angel named Maggie. Maggie was dying slowly and she knew it. So one day Maggie went for a walk when she hears someone screamed, "Help me, please."

Maggie ran to where she heard the screaming. "Are you ok?" Maggie looked over the edge of a cliff to see a small angel hanging by its wings.

"Please help me ill make you healthy again if you help me!"

Maggie became excited and grabbed a stick so the small angel could grab it. When the angel was pulled to safety and the small angel said a magical spell and made Maggie healthy again.

Then the small angel said, "Thank you for saving me you are a good person."

"Thank you and thank you for making me healthy again."

They said goodbye and went their separate ways healthy and safe.

The Runner By Meredith

She quickly ran inside and slammed the door.

1... 2... 3... breathe. 1... 2... 3... breathe.

Exhausted, she braced all of her weight upon it. She'd been running for hours; perhaps even days. She'd lost track of the time a long time ago. For now, though, she was safe inside the old abandoned home. Finally, she was able to rest. She removed her scarf and her shoes and lay too on the dirty wooden floor.



When the sun rose, she awoke to find herself amidst an array of old photographs and items that she had been able to see in the dark of the night. The girl stood, dusted herself, and began to walk around the house, clearing the cobwebs as she roamed.

As she explored, she found dolls with their hair combed and braided and placed delicately upon chairs. She discovered a tea set on a table, positioned and ready for afternoon tea.

Birds By Amber



Once there were twins, their names were Nicole and Sally. These two girls owned some beautiful black birds. When Nicole was with her birds she was sad. She was sad because she couldn't stand seeing the birds act happy so it

made her sad. But when Sally was with her birds she was happy. She was happy because the birds seemed happy and peaceful. One day the girls discovered that the birds were dead in their cage. So the girls mummified the birds and hung them on the ceiling. They hung the birds up because they wanted to remember what good birds they had. The girls never got pets again because nothing could ever replace their birds. They lived the rest off their life with their birds hanging on the ceiling of their room.

The End

MY TRUCK BY BRITT

My truck
10 years old .
Almost has 200,000 miles.
4 wheel drive.
Has chrome and camo and a grasshopper to the camo
is on the front and back and sides and on the
windshield wipers.
In front of the odometer.

TOOTSIE BY BRITT

My dog is tootsie.
She is a good dog.
She is black.
I git her for Christmas.
She is an old dog.
She is kind.
She does not bit.
She is a Dotson.
She loves to play.



BROKEN HEART: NEW START BY AMBER



Once there was a girl. This girl loved a boy. She thought the boy loved her back. One day she was walking and she saw the boy she loved with another girl. The boy was kissing this other girl right in front of her. The girl turned and ran to her best friend Kody's house. Kody comfort her and said everything was going to be ok. From then on she went to Kody when she was upset. She started to fall in love with Kody. She soon discovered Kody loved her back. They soon started dating and soon they married. They lived happily ever after.

Monster Inside BY Amber



Once there was a girl named Abbie. Every time she looked in the mirror she saw a monster. The monster within her was a evil thing a very evil thing. This girl tried everything to get this monster out of her. She talked to someone and they helped her control her feelings and everything. Soon she didn't see that monster in the mirror.

RUN BY BRITTANY

I'M RUNNING DOWN THE HALLWAY AND I HEAR THE SOUND OF MY ENEMY QUICKLY APPROACHING. I MAKE IT TO MY ROOM AND SLAM THE DOOR, LOCKING THE ENEMY OUT. I PUT ALL MY WEIGHT AGAINST THE DOOR TO KEEP IT OUT. WHAT AM I RUNNING FROM? WHY AM I SO AFRAID? SHOULD I FACE WHAT'S BEHIND THE DOOR OR KEEP RUNNING? I'VE MADE MY DECISION. I THROW OPEN THE DOOR AND FACE THE THING I'VE BEEN RUNNING FROM FOR SO LONG. AND NOW THAT I HAVE FACED MY FEARS, I REALIZE I HAD NOTHING TO FEAR.



AMBER BY DAKOTA



Amber flew home to find her apartment. She got lost and asked a friend to help her get home. Her friend took her by the hand and led her home. Her mother was a princess and kissed

her daughters cheek the rest of her family welcomed her home, and amber never ran away again .

THE MESSAGE BY DAKOTA



My grandma has come to deliver a message. She said Dakota. I'm here with you. I'll be here beside you no matter

what. So think smarter.

I tell her thank you very much.

MY HEART BY CHRIS



Well I'm going to start of by saying that my heart been hurt a lot most of my family is dying or getting killed. It's eating

me up inside that my cousin got killed a couple days before my birthday. Last year was going so good until May 19th hit we get a phone call from my auntie and she is crying and she says tavaris got killed my heart dropped I looked up to him he the one told me to get help for I can help my mom out in the long run and don't get locked up that's why I'm here today. Well I told ya'll half of the reason I'm here and writing this is kind of getting anger of my chest.

THE 1ST DOG MYSTERY™

BY: DONNOVON



The first dog mystery started on August 1st 2011 when Jennifer bought her little brother Max a dog, But Max was happy until, He named the dog Destiny. That Evening Destiny & Max had a lot of fun, until that

night they went to sleep what happened to Destiny? Max said. That night was Horrible. Jennifer said that Destiny disappeared in a blink of an eye, Max cries when Jennifer returned to the house. Max & Jennifer looked high and low for Destiny. Until they give up, they tried to post up photos of Destiny with number stickers. Asia & Jason their next door neighbors said that Destiny Went to central park. Max & Jennifer rushed to central park, they saw Destiny where she was in trouble, and Jason carefully grabbed Destiny. In the end Max Hugged Jennifer and Destiny hugged them all.

Sorrow
 Anger
 I have betrayed you.
 I have disappointed you.
 I have let you down.
 You trusted me.
 You confided in me.
 You believed in me.
 Now I stand here,
 Heart in my hands.
 Asking you one last time,
 To believe in me.

Issue 153 By Stephanie

The window to your soul.
 When you look through the window,
 What to do you see?
 Faith
 Courage
 Strength
 Hope
 Love.
 Look into our eyes,
 And see who we really are.

351 eussI By Stephanie

The window to your soul,
 So full of hatred
 So full of fear
 So full of weakness
 So full of despair
 The window to my soul is a bottomless pit.

Two of me By Stephanie

I am a twin.
 I have two sides.
 She is always happy.
 I am always depressed.
 She is violent.
 I am passive.
 She is inspiring.
 I am dull.
 She is outgoing.
 I am shy.
 She creates her own world.
 I live in others'.
 She is evil.
 I am good.
 But she is not my twin.
 She is me.
 I am her.
 We are one.
 But if we are one,
 Who are we?

Believe in me By Stephanie

Tears run down my face.
 My heart lay in shambles.
 Pain slices through me, like an angry sword.
 I feel nothing but shame
 Guilt

"LOST LOVE" BY JASMINE

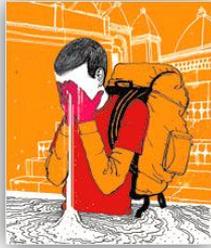
I'm lost inside; I feel
 as if I have no love, my
 heart is broken, but I
 have finally came to
 realize I am loved and
 my friend Maggie has
 pieced my broken heart back together.
 By proving to me I am someone. </3

"LOST TREE" BY JASMINE

My name is Jasmine, I am
 four-teen years old and I
 am an old tree. I describe
 my self as tall, old, and
 lonely. I sit on top of
 this mountain day by day
 all by myself. I died from
 old age but I believe it
 has a thing to do with stress. I want
 to re-grow and show that I am someone.
 Then start over with aging and
 someday die of old age, and be happily
 ever after.

THE LOST BOY BY JIMMY

Here I am lost in the world again, wondering if I will be free for a little while or free forever. This is a dark and lonely time for me. I lost my grandpa a week ago the most important thing to me. I would wish for him back, but don't want him to suffer anymore. I would wish for my life to get back on track and be better forever so I hear about this magical river that if you wash your face you get one wish, so I pack my stuff and head out. I start walking and walking, till I can't walk no more. I take a break eat a snack and take a nap, during my nap I have a dream that I made it to the river, and I remembered my mama has cancer, so I think to myself, should I make my wish for me to be happy or for my mama to be cancer-free and I awake and walk till I reach the magical river. I walk in the river, and I put my hands in it, then I raise my hands to my face and wash my face. I wish for my mama to be cancer-free because I can live unhappy, but I can't live without my mama. She is the only thing I have left in the world. I love you mama.



Scream BY Justin



No one heard him scream, but they could have. They were ignorant of the symptoms. He did everything he could, short of telling them. His reality had crumbled. Shapes turned to figures to abstractions. Psychosis had taken its hold. Anger then depression then anxiety to boredom was the cycle. These things occupied what free space was left in him. When they outgrew their space, so did he.

shoulders by Justin



So here I am, a human life on my shoulders. As my vision fades, the ringing in my ears grows. When you're choking, you'll do anything to fill your lungs. I mean it. Honestly. As I'm kicking and sucking in water, I hear the kid above me, my kid, giggling and laughing. He thinks this is a game.

The little jerk. What he doesn't realize is that when I go under, he does too. He can't swim. I'm his lifeline. A human life is on my shoulders. I mean it. Honestly.

"I SEE ALL" BY MAGGIE



I fly high.
I see everything from this high.
You're like ants, because I see all.
It's better than what you see; you say it's not good
and unhealthy.
I say somebody should join me! cause i see all, and
you are blind.

BLOODY MARY BY MAGGIE



I got to the sink to wash my
sins away but instead instead
of water I receive a warm
sticky substance, it covers
my hands engulfing my brain
with confusion as it swirls
down the drain I realize its my
blood from my troubles I fall to the ground
refusing to regain my standing ovation to the
world .

SEEING THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS BY MAI



Hi my name is
Bell I'm 23 years
old and I'm
scared of my own reflection. It all started about
10 years ago when I was 13 years old me and
my brother was getting ready for school one
morning and I locked my brother out he got so
mad. So he started yelling then he stopped
yelling and started to talk and he was saying
that when your 13 your reflection in the mirror
would jump out and get you and that scared me
to death and I'm the type you tell me something
I believe it so I believed it. I don't own a mirror
because I'm scared of what's going to happen all
thanks to my weirdo brother...

INSIDE HIS HEAD BY MARCUS



I live inside this dudes head. My
name is Paul. Inside his head is
dark and I wish I could get out. I am friends with his
brain and I can see out his eye sockets. Well I got to
go play with my brain. Bye!

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Boom-Bang-Crash
By Noah

My bed is my vessel
 Floating in a sea of
 dreams
 But I am sinking deeper
 And I just want to scream

An umbrella
 For the rain
 Keeps me dry
 Away from pain

A water pail
 Within my reach
 To help me when
 My ship is breached

Above my head
 Hammer and saw
 Im used to working
 'Till my hands are raw

A typing machine

ALIEN ON A SPACESHIP BY REGINALD



I've got myself on a spaceship, so I wanted to California , I walk around town of California to see what the town is like. I think of it as a adventurous trip. It took me awhile to find the right side of town I was looking for. When I had first got to the spaceship I was nervous because it was my first time riding one so I didn't know what it looked like to be honest. After I walked around town in California I got back on the spaceship and I told the alien thank you for letting me ride on his spaceship.

Worry about Tomorrow By Rodney



I was Praying last night and an Angel came down and was talking to me, saying it was okay and don't worry about nothing and you will be home in no time, and listen to your grandmother and be respectful. Don't worry about what people say just worry about what you going to do when you get out.

To write my story
I bet you won't read it

It's too boring

Then there's a lamp

So far away

It seems like light

Isn't meant to

stay

And then, what's this

A big 'ol splash

Just like my life

Boom, Bang,

Crash

Into sleep

I'm sinking

deeper

I'll sail away

To meet my

keeper

