

THE MANNEQUIN

Dressed in a checkered dress,
the buttons embroidered like blank faces,
she stares out of hollow sockets fringed with fern lashes
and inked brows.
Her unproportioned, grotesque features are carved in a placid expression
into her plastered face. Her lips and nose are huge. A flowered scarf
completes her hairless head and centers her in a human crowd.
An elfin boy in a Greek fisherman's cap gazes over her shoulder; his lips are
pursed in contempt, and his trench coat is pulled tight to his chin.
All around are men in fedoras, milling about like fish in a barrel. They are trapped in a
poor-man's consumer world. A youth in an officer's cap
holds his hand out to another with dark, Spanish, terra cotta skin.
She wishes, in her mannequin mind, that she was real and could leave the
market and feel Mediterranean breezes on human flesh and watch the sea
with blue
alive
eyes.

~ERIN FENNELL

She wrote this poem when she was 16

POETRY

Blue is up in the sunshine
Shining over the seas
Birds flying
Eating the bread that's raining the world
The colors are singing
To help us
And the bears eat people
And the sharks are just costumes
Just remember

Remember
Remember
You're always the other one for dreams
The dreams that you wish
Will follow to you path
And they'll come into your head
Come with me
Pock a flower and a rose
Giving them to your mamas
and your dadas

They are only tools
Butterflies — Pretty is the sky
Though you go to bed
And just wake up
And just forget
And you *DON'T KNOW*
You are as beautiful
As the mountains
OOOOH — Up above
Are the creatures of the Earth.

~XIOLA BEAUCHAMP-LOGAN

She was 4 years old when she extemporaneously
composed the words and music to this song/poem
She is now 5 and lives in Seaside

MUTE SWAN

Snow white feathers, but with
eyes as black as obsidian and
a bright orange bill of tropical
paradise, is the swan, its neck
is tall, and broad, with two black
eyes to gaze down upon its
reflection on the smooth
cool, crystal clear water.
Its tail is as soft as down,
and its color may be of the
dove, but its wings are of the
eagle. But not a sound, not
even a hushed whisper is
uttered from the beautiful
cygnet, for it is a mute swan,
silent all its life, and even
when touched, the swan is
as quiet as a thought.

~MARGIT BOWLER

She is 9 and in the 4th grade
at Astor Elementary School
in Astoria

Walking through the school
In my brand new wide leg jeans
Hoping I don't trip
(I don't want to make a scene)
Stumble into lunch
I really need something to munch
Standing in the line
At last the turn is mine
I start to make my way
I yell and scream and raise all ****
Dang
One more class
One more class
Then it's the end
I don't think I'll last that long I'll go around the bend.
Hey

~ANGELA VAN CLEVE

She is a freshman at Astoria High School, and was a member
of the cast of *Shanghaied in Astoria* the past two seasons

THE VULTURES TAKE A ROADSIDE MEAL

These black-winged angels
have come down
to resurrect the dead:
a pair of beavers
who did not make it
across the road.

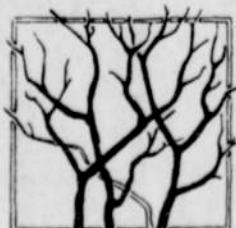
The vultures wait for a pause in traffic.
One roosts in a broken-topped alder,
wings half-spread to warm its breast
in the rising sun.
One circles low.
Another perches on the guard-rail.
And another, heeding the far-flung message, flies into sight.
They wait,
and then, without prayer,
when the cars have cleared,
they descend,
tear open the bodies,
gorge on fresh flesh.
In a few hours they are gone,
the thick-skinned tails are too tough
for even their beaks
and are left to smaller angels.
The crows move in and pick the bones.
In a few days all that's left
are two tire-tanned pelts.
The vultures off circling, soaring, waiting,
sharp eyes seeking
the next sacrament.

~JIM DOTT

He lives in Astoria

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