

SCRATCHPAD

'Through my window pain'

Fiction contest continues

By **ALYSSA EVANS**
COAST WEEKEND EDITOR



This week marks the third entry in Coast Weekend's fiction writing contest. To participate, send in a short story, no longer than 250 words, to aevans@dailystorian.com. Entries can be continuations of published prompts or new works of fiction. This week's edition is "THROUGH MY WINDOW PAIN," by Linda Webb Gustafson, of Cannon Beach.

'THROUGH MY WINDOW PAIN'

I didn't want to be rich. I wanted to be regular.

A small cottage by the sea suited me just fine. The mansion was so much wasted space. I desired a home that felt like a hug, not an endless scream.

Staring out the beveled glass of the ornately framed window I clung to the heavy drapes. Tears fell down my sunken cheeks. This house was a prison, as was the society I lived in.

Be this, be that, but never be me.

Though the Scandinavian, Finnish and Norwegian immigrants lives were different I could see the love. Not mere formality ... love ... I never knew. Looked down upon,

they had unity of family and friends working through hardship and life together.

I had "my privilege" ... one I detested. People who told me what I "should" do not caring what I wanted. Keeping up appearances is everything.

A long time ago I stood at this window. Today there is no one left alive who can testify what the smeared stain is on the wooden floor or what caused it or who.

They discarded the rug that was under the table hoping to hide the evidence. That day, instead of sugar I mixed my tea with drops of blood. Blood and tears spilled upon the lace doily later thrown into the wood stove so no one would know.

I was a sea captain's daughter who is still watching the working class from that window.

Money can't buy happiness.



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our coast weekend

ON THE
COVER



Round Island
in Willapa Bay,
Washington.
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