

THE SILLY GOOSE WRITING CLUB



Newsletter no. 3

Hello, silly geese! My name is Denton, and I am *Thin Air's* web editor. This news-letter-go-around I wanted to wax poetic about the importance of horror as a genre and its role in our lives.

As the temperatures drop here in Flagstaff and the leaves take their final breaths, I find myself reflecting on the things that scare me most. Monsters. Death. Rent. There are horrors around every corner this time of year and yet I still find myself excited. There is a nervous, almost manic joy that takes over when my shadow lengthens and the world prepares itself for the hard months ahead.

But why? What is it about terror that thrills me in this way?

These are the questions I ask myself while I stare at the ceiling unable to sleep. I don't have a firm answer, but I have a theory. ~~A horror theory~~. There is a vulnerability to horror, a truth to fear. When we are afraid the airs and postering drop away. We are our authentic selves. In a month defined by masks and costumes, there is an honesty that comes with being afraid. We open ourselves and tell the world that not only can we be frightened, here's what we are frightened of. I think that's beautiful. I also think I might be a monster.

Speaking of monsters, another seasonal joy of mine is the community born from terror. In the media of the moment (the works of King, Flanagan, Jones, Harrison, etc.), our protagonists band together to beat back the forces of evil, gather to get rid of the ghouls of their fictional realities. While in real life we don't have to join up to fight vampires or masked killers, we do find ourselves drawn to those around us. We huddle together after scary movies, link arms in the aftermath of a starting scene. We not just ourselves after a fright, we are a community. That fear we feel binds, ties us together. We tell the world here is who I am, here is what I am afraid of. And the world responds. It tells us that it understands and that we are not alone even when things are the spookiest.

Prompt: I want you to think of something that scares you. Something that shakes you to your core. Makes you want to weep.

Now that you are traumatized, I want you to take that fear and turn it into a person. How can you turn that abject fear into a character? Does claustrophobia become an overbearing peer? Now that you have that character created, place them into your daily life. What does a living manifestation of your fear do to you and your day to day?

REMINDER: Submissions close for Thin Air Issue 31 on October 31st! We are seeking works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and visual art. Submit today!

