

Distractions

Words to Live by—II

Prioritize
Do your best
Let it go
No one's perfect.

Darren Elliott

I was falling into an infinite well.
It was dark and foggy.
I felt lonely and hopeless.
Suddenly I saw a flickering light.
I heard your inviting voice somewhere beyond the fog,
which captured my heart.
I felt the real life just above myself.
It was bright and silent.
There were love and happiness.
I heard a begging voice from inside myself
like an incurable patient crying out for help
"Show me the light, show me the life, show me the love"
You took my hand
I dove into a mysterious ocean
I felt fresh and relaxed as a newborn child in his mother's arms.
I touched love.
I touched life.
I found my sun, at last.

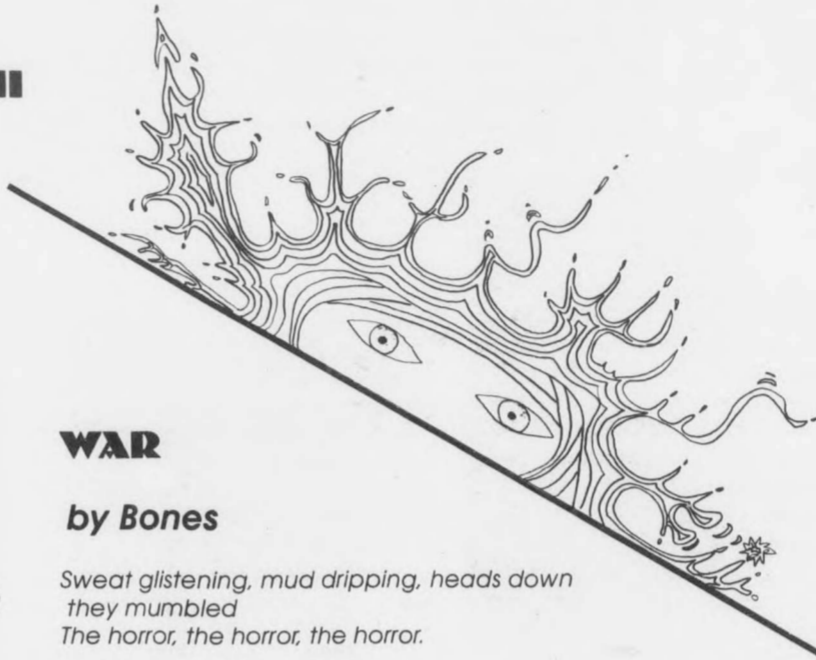
Poem on the Bathroom Wall II

Hero
You sway suspended
for the enchanted ones
Slide through windows
Frost them with silver
and red vines
Where I see my reflection

There's a ring of bones
near to where you lie
I have taken the gun,
hidden it in corpses there
and in my sleep
I reach for it

I am pure
My heart is hanging over you
Disembodied, disengaged
It is the skull you sought
But in time it will
come down in pieces
and bury you and your
lifeless myth
And so it must be

SAD
Jane



WAR

by Bones

Sweat glistening, mud dripping, heads down
they mumbled
The horror, the horror, the horror.

Walking, staggering, crawling
they mumbled
The horror, the horror, the horror.

Wounds bleeding, limbs broken, eyes gouged
they mumbled
The horror, the horror, the horror.

Defeated, Destroyed, Dead
acadia mumbled
The horror, the horror, the horror.

"You were sleeping,
You were dreaming"
the evil was laughing at me.

I woke up.
I found myself again,
amidst fog amidst darkness,
amidst disappointment, falling into the infinite well.
I've lost you.
I've lost the sun.

Now I feel an empty space
instead a heart in my chest.

"Reza"

You are You and I am I

You are You and I am I
That's the way it is
That's what makes us special
It's a part of our humanity

We all have rights to equal freedom
Why should this be denied to some
Who are innocent in their doings
But victims of our society.

Darren Elliott

Grain Announces the 21 Contest!

If you have your 21st birthday in 1993, you can enter your unpublished poems, short stories and personal essays in our 21 Contest.

- \$2,100 in cash prizes donated by Century 21
- Grand Prize: \$600 in cash, plus paid tuition to a writing course at the Sage Hill Writing Experience, which includes return air travel to Saskatchewan from anywhere in Canada. The Grand Prize winner will be selected from the three 1st Prize Winners.

- Other prizes in each category total \$500.
- First prize winners will be published in an issue of Grain and receive payment upon publication.
- All entrants will receive the issue of Grain which includes the winners of The 21 Contest.

Writing Contest!

Categories

Short Story: An unpublished work of narrative fiction of no more than 5,000 words (approximately 20 pages).

Poetry: A group of up to eight (8) unpublished poems.

Personal Essay: An unpublished personal essay of no more than 5,000 words (approximately 20 pages).

The personal essay must be original. It cannot have been submitted for any kind of course work in any school or university - except creative writing. Short stories and poetry that have been workshoped in creative writing classes are eligible.

Prizes:

Grand Prize: \$600; 1st Prize: \$250; 2nd Prize: \$150; 3rd Prize: \$100 in each category.

Judges:

Grand Prize: Grain Editors
Short Story: Ven Begamudré
Poetry: Anne Szumigalski
Personal Essay: Maggie Siggins

Entry Fee:

The entry fee is \$10. Submit only one entry per category. You may enter more than one category, but must pay the \$10 entry fee for each category entered.

Deadline: January 31, 1994

Send your unpublished story, poem(s), or personal essay along with a covering page giving your name, mailing address, telephone number, title of piece, category entered, word count, and your date of birth, along with your entry fee to:

21 Contest,
Box 1154,
Regina, SK, Canada
S4P 3B4.

For more information contact the Distractions editor at the *Brunswickan*.

