

*waif*



What is Waif.

When that noise is so white you can't even hear it.

Messy hair is waif, but so are bangs.

Waped Veed is Vaify.

Waif is when you fall down the stairs but still can't scrape your knee.

Waif is when you play the piano & you don't know how to play the piano.

Waif is when you play piano really well. And drums. Because you were taught.

Kix is Waif. So is special K. Trix is not Waif.

Whores are Waif. Prudes are Waif. Dudes are Waif. Nudes are Waif.

Your Grandmother is Waif, only when she's knitting a hat for you, you Waif.

Waif is when your corn shows up later.

Gardening is Waif. Love your dead plants.

Waif is when you shave every single hair on your body. Waif is when you've never cut a single hair on your body since birth.

Talent shows are Waif. Throw a talent show. Invite us.

Arms that jiggle like hot jello are Waif.

Zit Scabs are Waif.

Chicken feet are Waif.

Beady eyes are Waif.

You can't spell Waif without I.

Leave the taps dribbling overnight if it's below 30 degrees fahrenheit.

You, me, all, we're all Waif. If we want to be. And we want to be.

# ***waif***

## ***issue 17: The Time Traveller's Waif***

Conceived by  
**SUBTLE PRIDE**

*Misha Brooks, Zach Donovan, Brigitte Lundy-Paine, Mina Walker*

*This issue of Waif Magazine features the talents of*

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Samuel Brutsche  
Johnny Bubniak  
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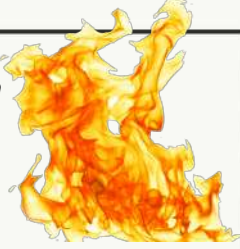
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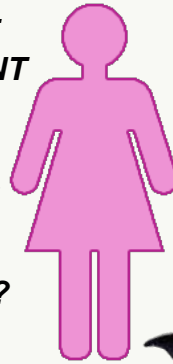
Interstitial Photography by Lucy McCabe and Nikita Gluck

# WAIF

**\*PANGEA**  
Breakups suck.  
Especially when  
they mean you  
can no longer  
just walk to  
Australia



**\*MADAME  
PRESIDENT**  
It has to  
happen  
sometime,  
right?  
America?  
You there?



**\*NATRUE'S  
RECLAMATION**  
She's waiting  
so patiently for  
us to leave

**\*STONEHENGE**  
Witches get shit  
done



**\*DISCOVERY OF FIRE**  
She's got the sickest  
burns

**\*DOLPHINS**  
They'll know what to do  
when the time comes



**\*PUBLIK  
UNIVERSAL FRIEND**  
If only we could all  
wake up from a  
coma gender-queer  
and devoted solely  
to friendship

**\*AIRPLANES**  
They're flying  
cars if you  
didn't notice



**\*FREE COLLEGE**  
If you already  
paid... sorry bout it



PAST

FUTURE



**\*AIM CHAT**  
L@ZY80i: hey  
d0gl0v3r: hey  
L@ZY80i: i lyk u  
d0gl0v3r signed off at 3:54:25 PM

**\*STAR WARS**  
A long time  
ago... Your  
parents  
thought they'd  
only make one  
movie



**\*WATER CRISIS**  
What will we  
do? No one  
knows. No  
literally! No one  
has a plan.



**\*CAVE  
DRAWINGS**  
At one point  
this scribble  
scrabble was  
considered  
"great art"

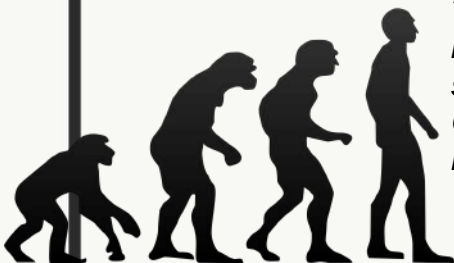


**\*CELEBRITIES**  
One day not one  
single person  
will know the  
name Brad Pitt.  
What a relief for  
him.



**\*INFINITE  
IPHONES**  
We were  
satisfied  
with the 5

**\*HUMAN EVOLUTION**  
It really should've  
stopped at the  
Ocean. The Ocean  
knows whats up



**\*V.R.**  
Waifness  
means living in  
the real world



**\*MASS  
EXTINCTION**  
All animals will  
eventually become  
extinct. Except  
Chickens probably.  
They're tough



# NOT WAIF

# ***A Letter to Our Readers***

## The Question of Poetry

Dear Waifs,

Thank you for your continued support of our magazine, Waif. We love to make it and love to read it and we hope you love to too. As you may know, we have open submissions - Waif is your magazine, not ours. We are not to say what is or is not Waif. We only publish. For those of you familiar with our submissions, you know about our No Poems Please policy. If you're new to Waif, our only submissions guideline is No Poems Please - we would prefer to publish longer written work. We have had this policy in place since the turning of 2019, although a few now-blacklisted authors have slipped poetry into the magazine silently. Rude and dishonest, to say the least, but this sneak around was largely inconsequential - it was easy to scroll past. No Poems Please.

However, it has come to our attention that Waif is a platform for young people to share their work and ideas, and that oftentimes, young people write poetry. One Waif, Maddy, wrote in to ask: why no poems? "i remember reading poems in an early issue. i don't even want to send in a poem i just wanna know from where this poetry ban stems." A great question. We let Maddy know that the poetry ban was largely practical, that we did not want to be a magazine full of poems, but instead feature hard-hitting, longer-form journalism from new writers. Maddy let us know that she thinks, "it's a good call because poetry is an incredibly difficult thing to get right, in my opinion. A lot of young people write poetry but I know from personal experience that said poetry is often pretty shite (mine certainly is!)."

An apt thought, Maddy. We don't want the magazine to be shite at all. She also notes that the creative vibe Waif promotes seems conducive or better fit for prose writing and other forms of expression. We at Waif don't disagree with Maddy, but again: we are not the gatekeepers of Waif. You are.

We want to hear from the Waifs of the world what you think about poetry. Is Poetry Waif? Why or why not?

NOTE: the No Poems Please policy is STILL IN PLACE. It will only be lifted if we hear enough feedback in favor of Poetry, so until then, please refrain from writing poetry or otherwise sending it to us - we will not consider it. But please tell us whether you think poetry has a place in Waif Magazine. We will read that.

At the end of all this, believe it or not, we have received one poem - one singular poem - that we would like to share with you. We think it is beautiful and apropos, by a Waif and for a Waif alike. For your consideration:

***For waifs and strays...***

*By harris\_la*

*Collect the waifs and strays*

*The rootless trees*

*The swarmless bee*

*Make them bouquet*

*Of flowering weeds*

*Paint filled brush*

*Half open umbrella*

*And bind them with*

*Your words, your ears*

*Give space of mind*

*Inches in time*

*And wait*

Please wait, dear Waifs. Wait to send us poetry until we know its place. Until we know it is time.

Warmly,  
Waif Magazine



Lily McCabe 2019

**WELCO  
-ME TO  
TIME//**

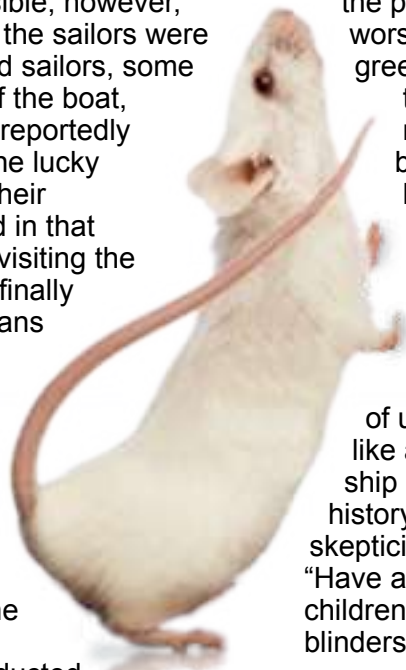
*By Casey Donovan*



Time. Ever lurching forward. A priceless commodity no being can possess; a destination where none can wander. Countless millennia behind us and infinite millennia to come, yet we remain trapped in our infinitesimal, insignificant, inconsequential window of existence, doomed to the Kafkaesque curse of humanity's unfathomably narrow metaphysical perspective against the grand design of the universe and the immeasurable history of time. Unless, of course, there were means to tame the leviathan of time and bend it to our will, inching ever closer to usurping Almighty God's claim to the throne o'erlooking the Heavens, the Earth, and the Cosmos.

**October 28, 1943.** A top secret experiment at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard is conducted on the USS Eldridge and its crew, a test of new technology that could make ships invisible to enemies at sea using large electromagnetic generators to refract light and cloak the vessel. The experiment was initially successful, as the ship was rendered partially invisible, however, when the ship reappeared, the sailors were traumatized. Bodies of dead sailors, some fused into the metal shell of the boat, while some survivors were reportedly "completely bananas." Of the lucky ones to return unscathed, their accounts of what happened in that fateful ten minutes include visiting the year 2137, then 1983, and finally 2749, where a race of humans called The Wingmakers create an all-knowing artificial intelligence responsible for overseeing the socialistic operation of a world-unified society, all before returning to 1943 Philadelphia. To this day, the U.S. Navy denies any such experiment ever being conducted.

***"Domain over time is not an inconsequential pursuit of curiosity, nay, it is a quest for the control of the universe's most bountiful and untouched resource."***



**May 2, 1972.** Father Pellegrino Ernetti claims in an Italian newspaper that he, along with Father Francois Brune, has cobbled together a device, the Chronovisor, allowing them to gaze into the future and the past as a spectator. Ernetti tells tales of visiting an ancient Greek theatre to view one of history's lost plays and even observing the crucifixion of Christ. It is alleged that the Chronovisor lies somewhere deep within the catacombs of the Vatican, where the grandeur of its power lies either festering away out of the piteous reach of the common mortal, or its majestic window into time has been exploited for the sake of ensuring the favorable timelines of the wicked plutocrats, determined to keep the lowly serfs pinned beneath the oppressive boot of the despot.

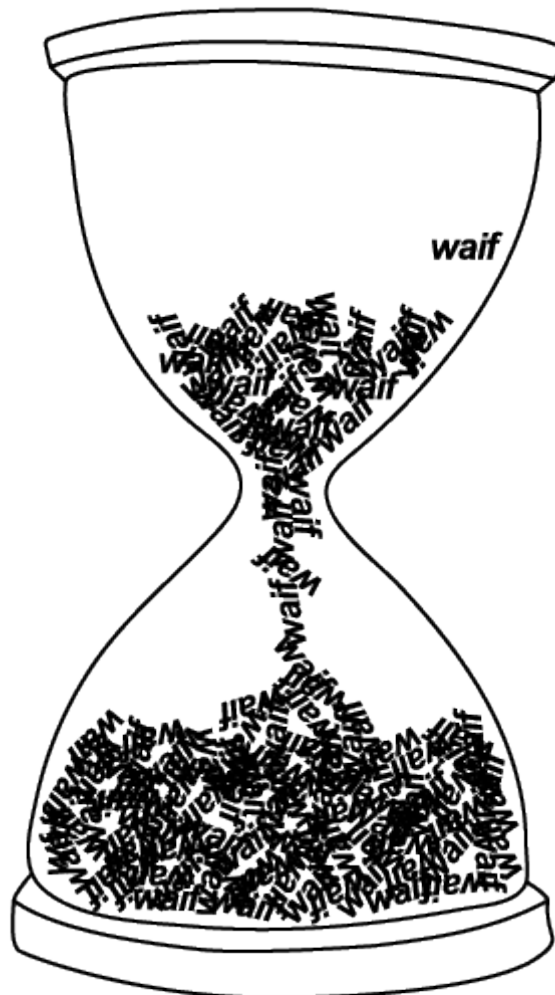
**July 21, 1999.** Archaeologists at Bashkir State University discover the Dashka Stone, a 120-million-year-old stone-carved map of the Ural Mountains in Russia, despite the earliest of human ancestors only dating back 4 million years.

The truth we seek is on the periphery of our grasp. Or perhaps worse, the power is in the grasp of the greedy, the socialite swine of society, those whose wealth and authority reach far beyond the bounds of the blind house mice scurrying about beneath them and into the all-seeing eyes of history and civilization, effectively reaching a higher plain of sentience: those whose names and statuses allow them to live on the other side of the veil, eye-to-eye with the powers that be, so that any of us mice that get a glimpse behind it, like an unfortunate sailor on a special ship or a priest with a front row seat to history, can be the target of ridicule and skepticism. "Laugh at the clown," they say. "Have a gas at the expense of the loon, children!" And the mice, still wearing the blinders of deceit, continue to feed from the

nasty trough of lies filled by the mendacious hand of the powerful few.

Domain over time is not an inconsequential pursuit of curiosity, nay, it is a quest for the control of the universe's most bountiful and untouched resource. If the exploration of time is not accessible to the common person, instead being exploited and abused for the nefarious causes of society's upper crust, it is not a matter to take lying down, my friends. A revolution is in order, in fact. We must rise and restore the balance of the world, link arms with your brothers from foreign nations, embrace your neighbors of different creeds, assemble as one people of Earth and take back the time you are owed, the time being stolen by your oligarch overlords to support their dirty dealings, their fascist agendas, and the good favor of their timelines at the expense of ours. No longer! The time is nigh to avenge your ancestors lost behind you, to fight for your posterity centuries out of sight, to stake a claim to the biggest conquest in the history of time.

This is the first step. This is necessity. We must ensure a favorable timeline for The People! We must pave the way for The Wingmakers to build their All-Seeing Eye. They are the way. It knows the path of all before and all to come. It shall be our salvation. It shall be our design. We empower it and become empowered through it. All hail the Eye. All hail the Eye. Welcome to Time. It is your servant and it is your master, as you are to it. Enjoy your destination. Enjoy your Time. ♦





*write.  
photo.  
art.  
submit.*

*waif*

*seeks new talent*

*but please no poems | [waifmagazin3@gmail.com](mailto:waifmagazin3@gmail.com)*

# ***THE ROARING TWENTY- TWENTIES//***

## ***Black Excellence & Royalty***

*Creative Direction by Earnie Grant*

*Styled by Ronnie LaMonte and Alopexian*

*Photographed by Linh Nguyen, Chris Sander, and Armit*

*Modeled by Mackenzi Turgeon, Catherine Aluoch, and Diana Bwari*

*Makeup by Samuel Brutsche and Mackenzi Turgeon*

*Hair by Helene Marie*

***“Until I saw people who looked like me, I wasn’t sure (being an actress) was a possibility”***

***- Lupita Nyong’o***

### ***A Note from Earnie Grant:***

This project was designed to promote the beauty, elegance, and grace of ethnic women. As a black man, I’ve personally witnessed the disproportionately sparse representation of women of color in my community. Therefore, it was essential for me to implement and manifest this vision, which sheds light on an important matter. Thus, the concept of “Black Excellence & Royalty” was birthed. Within this project, antiquated chain mail pieces, intricate placement of vintage accessories, and a blend of textiles were illustrated making the design appropriate for both professional and formal audiences. With a knack for inspiring others, this project is also intended to inspire little girls and women around the world to see a reflection of themselves in a glamorous and powerful way. The poignant work influences mindsets in a positive way, forcing other to adjust their crowns and raise their heads high.















***TEEN  
BOYS  
LAYER  
-S//***

***By Will Norris***

About a month ago I sat down to watch *The Bling Ring* by myself. (It's called being a cinéaste, folks.) This being a teen movie made in the last twenty years, I knew it would be

coming. *I knew*. And then, just 20 minutes into the movie, there it was:



*The Bling Ring* (2013)

Israel Broussard's Marc, at an early point in the movie when he's still a sad loner (he later finds his way into the titular Emma Watson-led crew and becomes cool), was bedecked in an open zip-up sweatshirt over an open button-down shirt over a T-shirt.

This particular getup--open sweatshirt + button down + T-shirt, or close

variations thereof--is worn by what seems to me an improbably high share of adolescent male characters (plus Ellen Page) in recent film and television history. The look is lazy visual shorthand for a character being a social outsider of some sort, and it's absolutely everywhere.



*Silicon Valley (2014)*



*Shameless (2011)*



*The Dark Tower (2017)*



*Atypical (2019)*



*Zombieland (2009)*



*Weeds (2005)*



*Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle (2004)*



*Spiderman: Homecoming (2017)*



*Big Bang Theory (2010)*



*Juno (2007)*

**“This particular getup-- open sweatshirt + button down + T-shirt, or close variations thereof--is worn by what seems to me an improbably high share of adolescent male characters (plus Ellen Page) in recent film and television history.”**

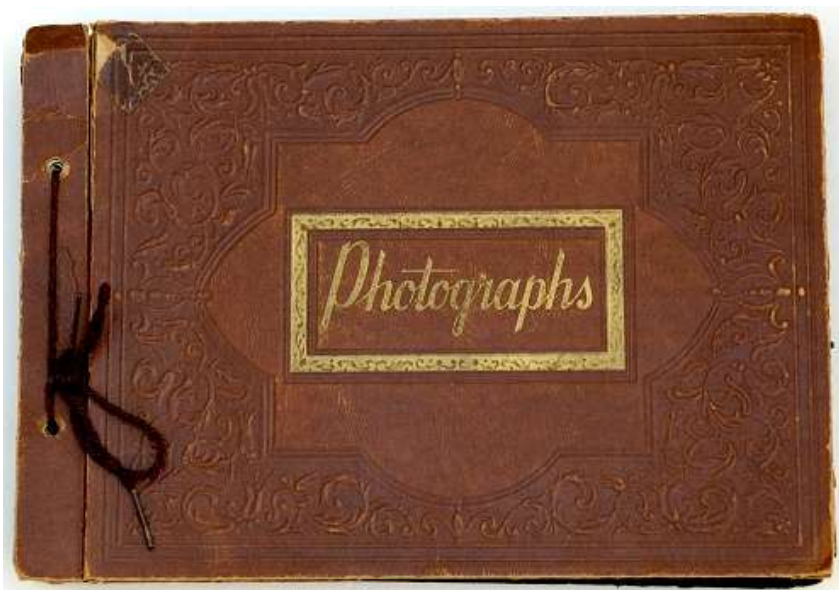
Here's the problem: they say life imitates art, but I cannot emphasize enough how thoroughly this look has never caught on in reality. No one--no one--wears that outfit, not even nerds and stoners. I've literally never seen it in real life. The look has become another self-perpetuating Hollywood trope with little basis in actual observed human behavior, like hanging up the phone without saying bye or being friends with your neighbors.

Core to the problem is that Hollywood drastically overestimates how often

anyone wears zip-up sweatshirts, especially those ones with white trim and white drawstrings. I cannot recall even a fleeting blip in time when those were in style. I've never met someone who owns one.

What moody adolescent boys wear, or wore when I was in high school, is very simple: ill-fitting blue jeans or shorts and the same random flannel shirt every day. For example, here I am as a high schooler (please take note, Hollywood):





***For example,  
here I am as a  
high schooler  
(please take note,  
Hollywood):***



Not an open hoodie in sight. I'm lucky enough to have teeth now.

I spoke by phone with Mojdeh Daftary, the costume designer for Netflix's *Atypical* and other shows, to help understand why Hollywood insists on pushing its open sweatshirt + open button-down + T-shirt agenda, even though no person living or dead has ever left their house wearing that ensemble, and no one ever will.

Maybe the ubiquity of the look has to do with its use in a few popular mid-aughts movies that turned it into a trope, I offered. Daftary agreed. "I think the Michael Cera-type look from movies like *Juno* and *Superbad* are often referenced because it's familiar to the audience," she said. "It's cliché, but I think it quickly tells the audience who this character is," which, she said, is an "awkward kid who is a little bit of an outsider--definitely not popular."

But why does the look involve all those layers? I asked.

There are two reasons, Daftary said. Firstly, "layers will create interest in a person's wardrobe, adding texture in a composition." And secondly, she said, teen boys "are already angsty and moody and trying to figure out who they are every single day; I think the choice of wearing layers often times is a comfort, adding a layer of armor when they go out in the world and have to face another day."

That all makes a lot of sense. I think we have our explanation. Thank you, Mojdeh! But still, it's a dumb look that no one wears. Will it ever get phased out of movies and TV?

Daftary says teen boy fashion is starting to evolve, both in the movies and in real life. "I think the hoodie, T-shirt uniform seen so often in teen movies can work for some characters," she said, but "social media [has] given teens access to art, culture and fashion across the country [...] Kids in South Dakota can watch skate videos of kids in LA or New York and be influenced by their style." Shows like *Euphoria* are beginning to reflect those changes, she said.

If Daftary is right, perhaps our long national nightmare is finally coming to an end. But until then, silence is complicity. We can do more than just hope for a better tomorrow.

Hollywood has spread the specious notion that people wear open sweatshirts over open button-down shirts over T-shirts for nearly two decades, and their day of reckoning has come. *Waif Magazine* will not rest until we've documented every appearance of this fallacious costume. **Please email [costumeaccuracynow@waif.com](mailto:costumeaccuracynow@waif.com) with any incidents of this outfit in TV and film not already appearing in this article.** ♦

***CHICKEN OF  
TOMORROW***

***//***

***THE WINNER IS...***



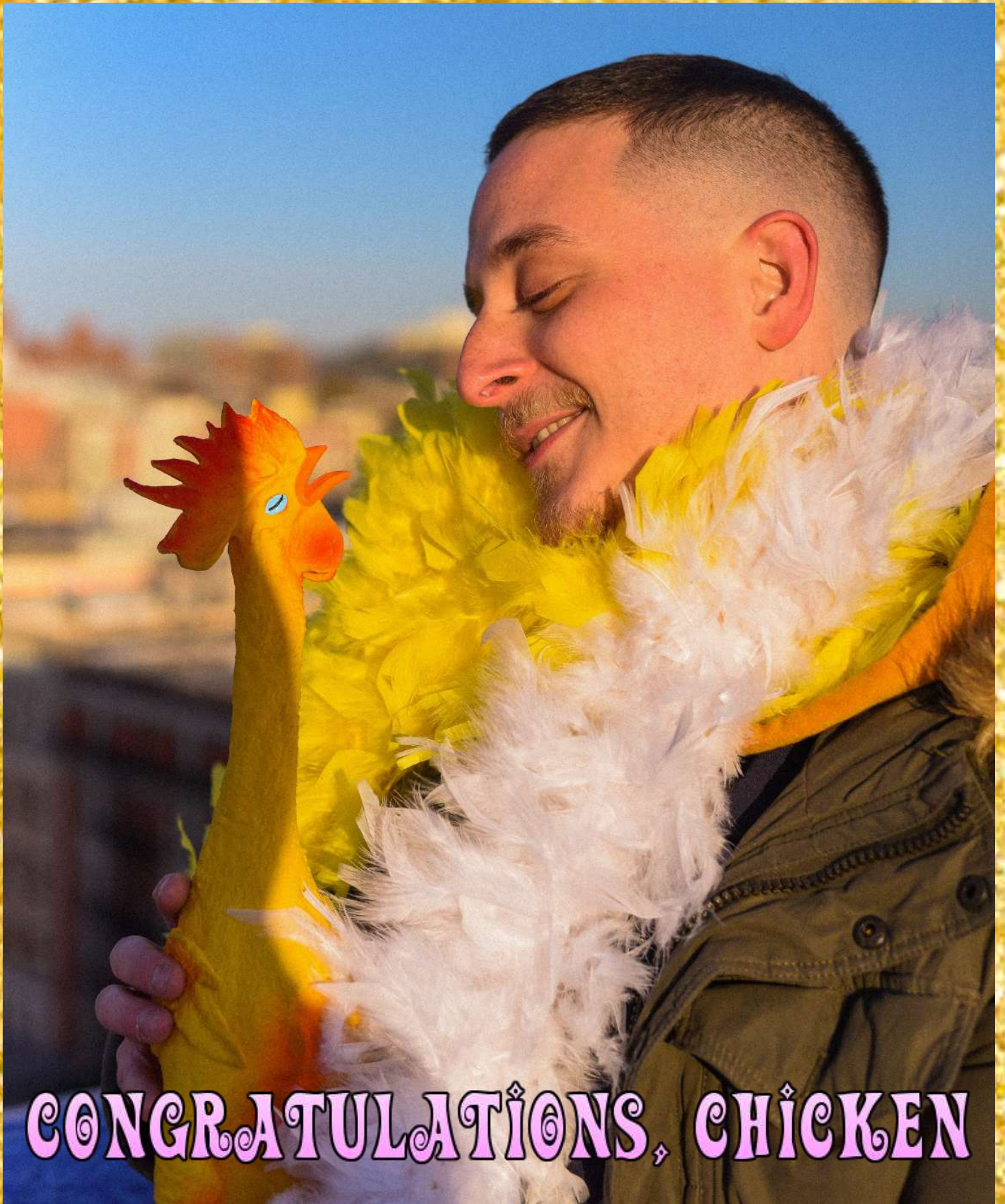
**CODY BUEGE**



**CODY COMPETED IN  
THE "EGG" CATEGORY**



HE SANG TWO ORIGINAL SONGS:  
"LITTLE GAY TROLL" &  
"STEAL FROM CHICK-FIL-A"



**CONGRATULATIONS, CHICKEN**

***Congratulations & Thank You to all  
our chicken contestants!***

***2nd Place: iAm (Category: Slaughter,  
Talent: live remix of the crowd &  
chicken sounds)/ Patrick Chico  
(Category: Bird, Talent: Singing)***

***3rd Place: Nicole VanHausen  
(Category: Bird, Talent: Bird  
Whistles)***

***And an extra special Thank You to  
our Judges:***

***Stephanie Wurster,  
Stephanie Shafir &  
Stephen Smith***

***waif.***

***not waif.***

***fashion.***

***refuse.***

***waif***

***Read Waif Magazine at [iswaif.com](http://iswaif.com)***





Lucey McCabe 2019



***LEXINGTON***

***-N 1839:***

***THE***

***ATHENS OF***

***THE***

***WEST//***

***By Emily Haynes***

Lexington, Kentucky was not exactly what I expected. Large homes that were painted shades of whites and greens lined the crowded streets, stores squeezed in between them. Families, friends, and everyone in between laughed and talked casually on the brick streets around me. It was then that I realized why people from all over the country had congregated there, it was a truly beautiful and welcoming place.

Unlike most cities I visited, Lexington felt refreshing. Upon my arrival, the word quickly spread that there was a visitor in town. I was worrisome with this, thinking that the longtime townspeople may frown upon me, someone who was foreign to the city life. I was taken aback by the many welcomes I received, and the smiles from the residents that surrounded me.

In my time visiting Lexington, I met a 16 year old girl, Lillian Campbell. Campbell was born in Prairietown, Indiana in 1823, she was in Lexington to receive her education at an all-exclusive girls academy. On my second night of staying at one of the two hotels in the city, she invited for dinner at her boarding house. Having someone offer their company to me was more than appreciated. She asked me about my travels around the Midwest, but I was more honored that I had the opportunity to talk to her, and about her experiences between the two places she most often spent her time at.

Although she was born in Prairietown, she spends most of her time in Lexington, only visiting her family a few times a year. With times being difficult for most people in the Midwest, she finds herself to be fortunate, as her father is the founder of the large farm town back in Indiana. "[My] parents are the richest people in Prairietown because [my] father is a landlord and actually is the founder of Prairietown. He is also the only doctor in town, but doctoring [doesn't] make a lot of money so medicine practice [is] more of a hobby [to him]." Campbell told me with a smile.

Prairietown is a wonderful place as well, but it doesn't compare to the perplexing city of Lexington. There seemed to be opportunities at every corner, with jobs at busy factories or quiet



were visitors similar to me, as well as businessmen that had come to discuss new plans for the city. Perhaps the most surprising thing about Lexington was the blissful scenery.

As Campbell showed me around the city, she seemed to agree with me, as she, too, saw the beauty in the city. When asked about which location she preferred, she expressed that the city life was an obvious choice for her.

"[I don't] prefer a small town like Prairietown but instead [I wish] to live in Lexington, the 'Athens of the West.'" said Campbell.

I could not help but agree with her comparison. The city was fresh and new, but the people in it kept a nostalgic manner to them. In the time I spent there, the sunsets were often deep arrays of oranges and reds, as if someone had painted the sky behind the buildings. It was equally as breathtaking as the capital of Greece.

"[My father is also the only doctor in town, but doctoring [doesn't] make a lot of money so medicine practice [is] more of a hobby [to him].'" Campbell told me with a smile."

Campbell showed me railroad system that had recently been installed, they stretched far, ending just south of Louisville. She showed me the large, two-story limestone government buildings, and the colorfully painted brick homes that sat around the large city.

I asked Campbell what she did with her time in Lexington, other than attending school. In Lexington, it is uncommon for young women to have jobs, as even when they grow into adulthood, they often reside at their homes.

"In [my] free time, [I enjoy] sewing, quilting, singing, piano playing, dancing and playing [worship songs]" said Campbell.

Even though I had not invested a lot of my time in Church, Campbell was eager to play worship songs- 'graces' as she called them- on her piano for me. She told me that even though many women did not have jobs per se, they oftentimes took on many occupations to keep themselves busy when times were slow.

When Campbell does go to Prairietown to visit the majority of her family, she leaves most of her friends behind. Although she only goes to Indiana a few times a year, she doesn't ever travel alone. Her cousins, Susan and Mary Moore, attend the same academy as her, and they often make the long journeys together. Campbell considers her cousins her closest friends, as she has known them her whole life, and they do many of the same activities together.

Despite her efforts of trying to stay out of the talk of other people as much as possible, she can't help but immerse herself in it back at home in Prairietown.

"Although [I try] to stay out of drama, [I] can't get enough of the gossip! [I host] an annual tea party

to hear everything that had gone on in town while [I] was away the rest of the year," Campbell admitted to me.

I asked her about some of the events they discussed at the last tea party, she told me about how her friend's father was seen with another woman at an evening church service, and how a prominent family in Prairietown had left the church.

Campbell explained to me that while back in Indiana, she also often makes an attempt at trying to convince her family to move with her to the 'Athens of the West'.

"[I wish my] parents would move back to Lexington, as [I do not] prefer the quiet farm life in Prairietown, [I] always miss [the] street lamps and paved roads," said Campbell. "[I like my life] in Lexington very much, but [I do] not always enjoy having to travel to see [my] parents."

I do not blame Campbell for encouraging her parents to make the move, as Lexington is perhaps one of the most thriving American cities in the 19th century.



Prairie town was an older town, many of the people kept to themselves, other than when they attended the Sunday church services. It's streets were still made of dirt, traveling to the next town over proved difficult as there was no railroad system there, and there were no plans for a system to be installed. The homes were painted white, but appeared to be more brown with the time that had gone by. The buildings were far apart, the only thing between them was desolate acres of farmland. Even on sunny days in Prairie town, the skies seemed to always be grey.

Even though my visit to Lexington was short, I was still lucky enough to immerse myself in the ever-changing culture and cultivating society. From the fathers and working men at the taverns late at night, to the women and girls in dresses with puffed shoulders, I am grateful for all that I was able to experience. The blooming city life opened my eyes to a new side of the Midwest, a beautiful one with large buildings sat upon rolling hills, behind them were the painting-like skies that still stand out in my mind vividly. ♦



# **SICKE- NING//**

*Photos by Paige Farrow*

*Modeled by Dan Chastant, Maurice Daniels, and  
Damien Whitley*

*Makeup by Riley Gable*



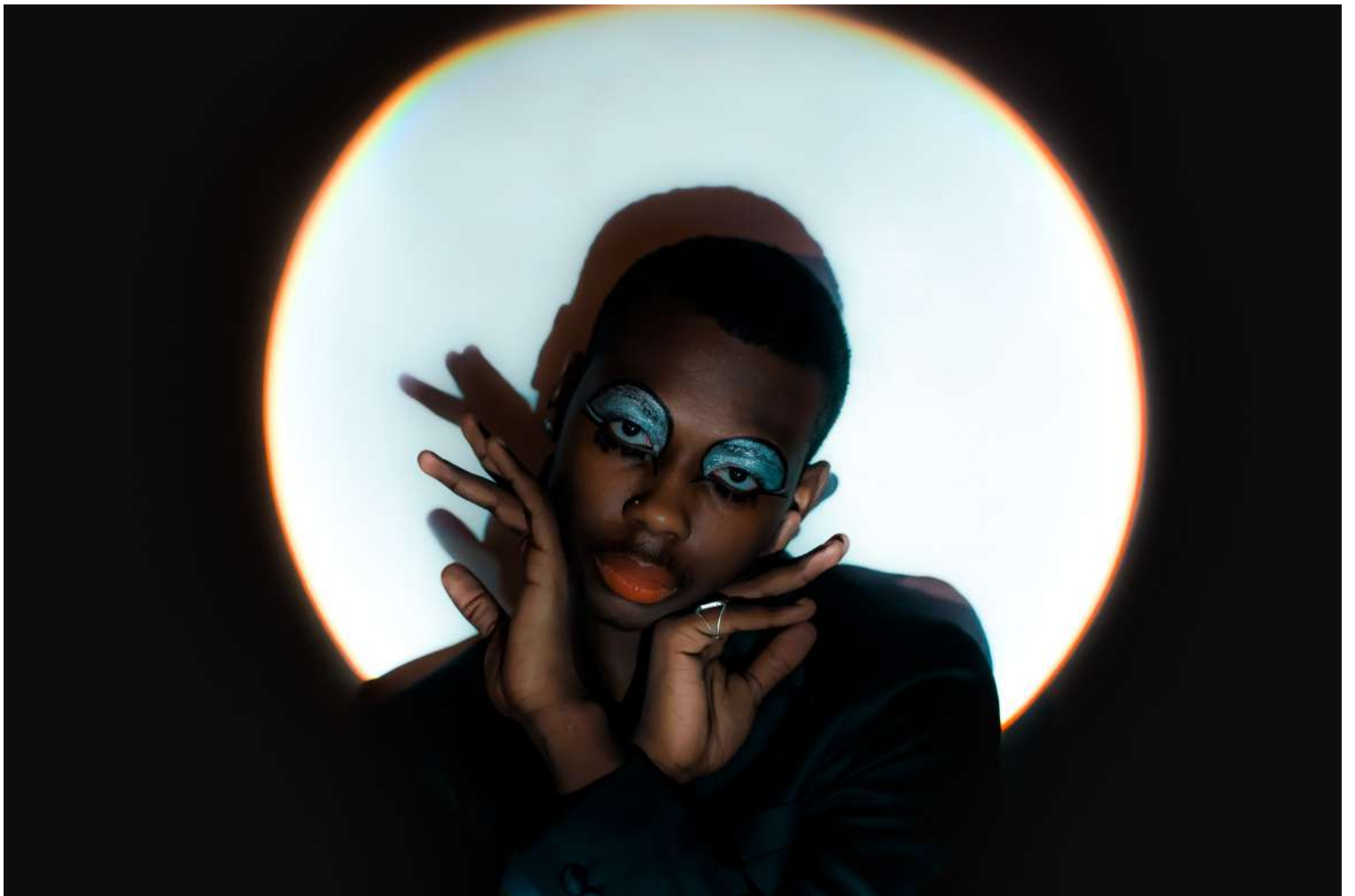
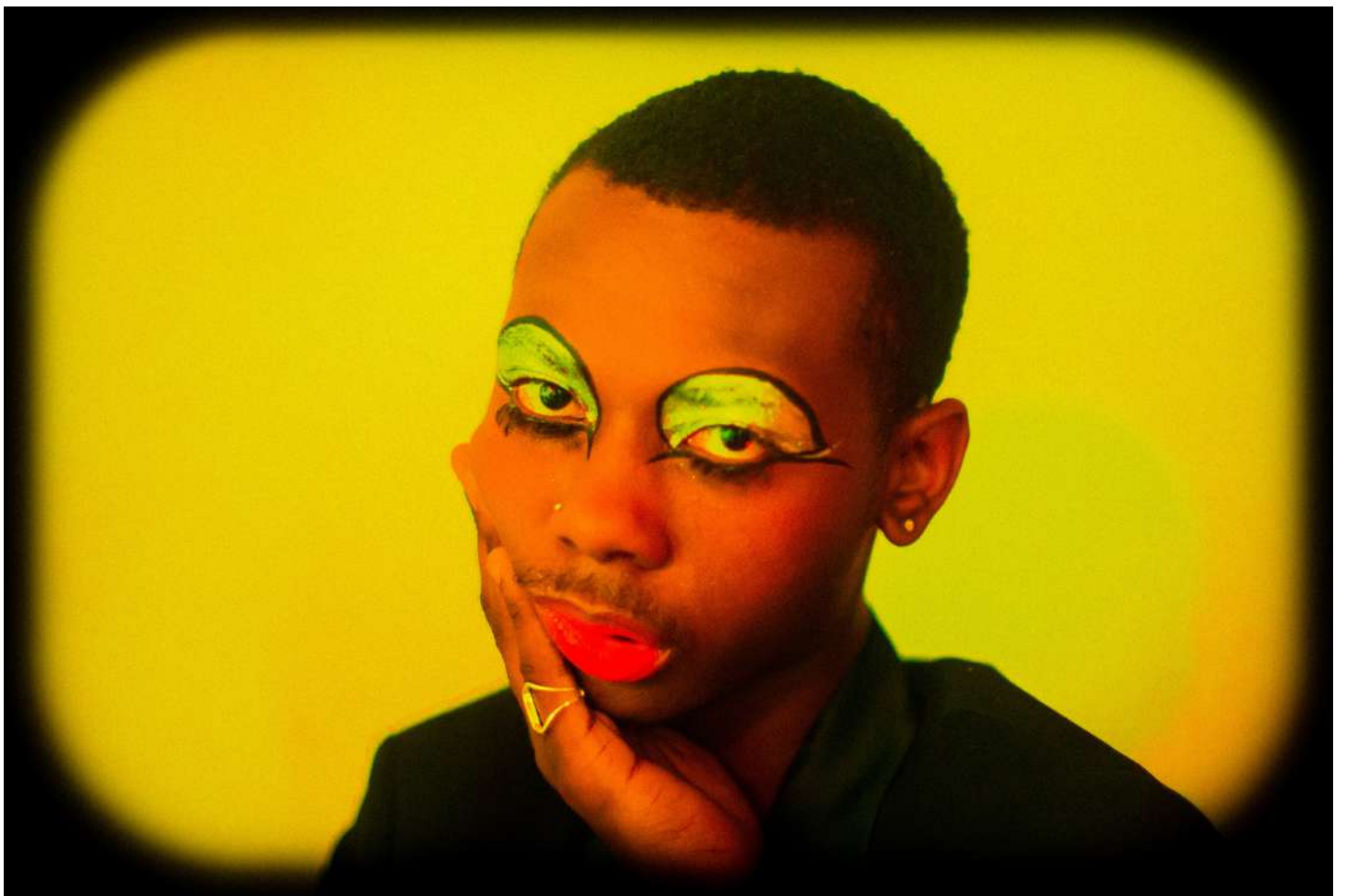




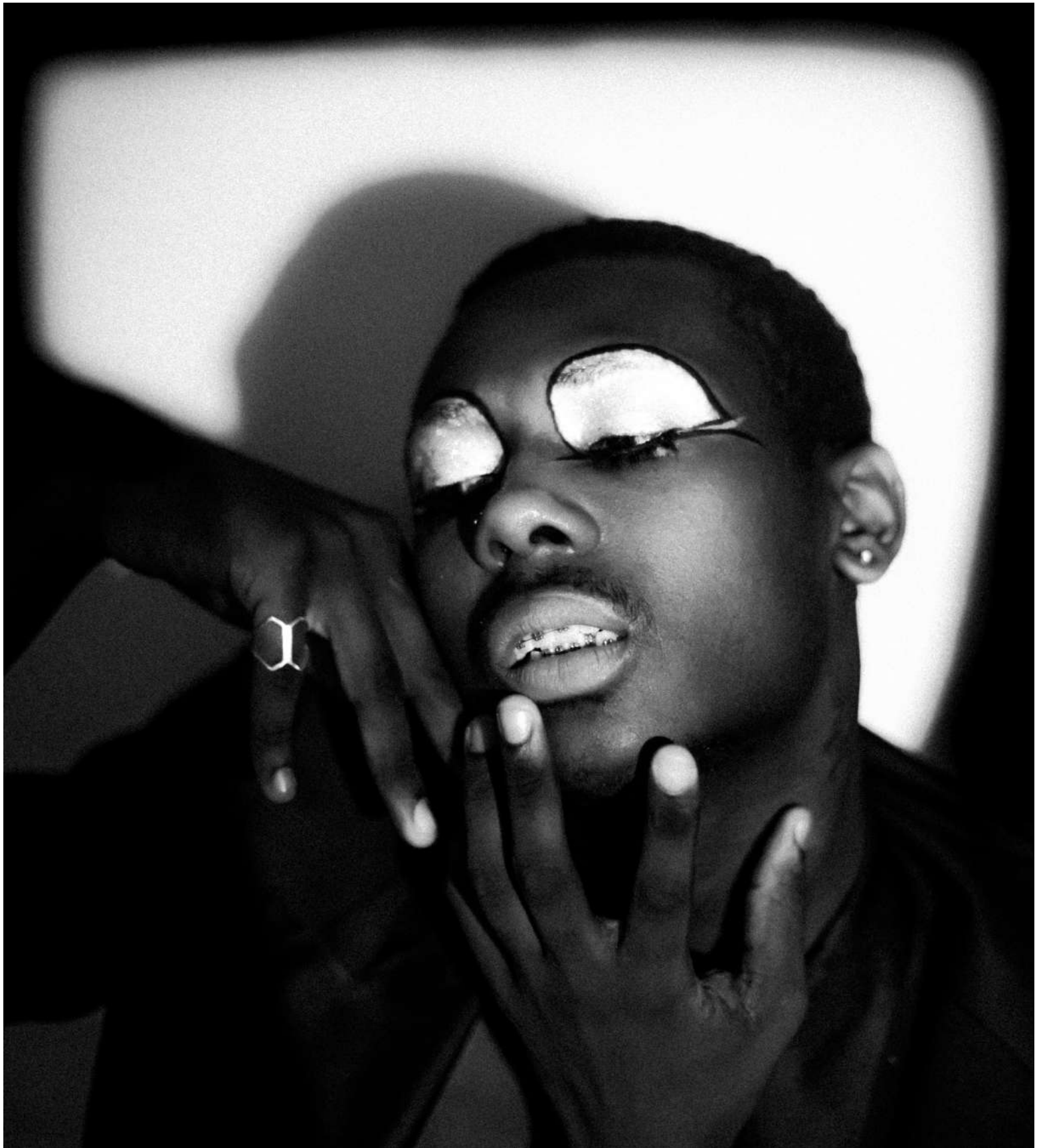




















# ***MEET SKELLENE//***

*Art toy, Skellene, from Jeremi Rimel's Miscreation Toys, is hitting shelves this fall. This independently produced doll-like toys are inspired by a Victorian-era mourning tradition wherein, "people often used a physical representation to mark the death of a loved one. These doll-like effigies were created to help the families cope with the deceased, and were typically left at the grave site in remembrance."*





***“From time to time, a little impoverished girl would be seen wandering alone in one of these cemeteries playing with the mourning dolls left at children’s graves. No one knew who she was or from whence she came. One day her visits stopped and eventually her lifeless body was found in the woods nearby. Nobody ever claimed her, and she was buried in an unmarked grave in the cemetery.”***

***“Years after her death, tales emerged about a little skeleton girl returning to play with the grave dolls in the middle of the night. Chatter and paranoia about the macabre sightings eventually lead to the girl’s grave being exhumed. However the figure in the small rotted casket was not the girl and instead was one of the mourning dolls she often played with. The girl was named ‘Skellene’ in folklore ever since.”***

***Mourn Thy Dead.***





***BACK  
TO MY  
FUTUR  
-E//***

***By Kippy Winston***

Some families watch a lot of movies; other families watch some movies a lot.

Such was the case for this Kippy's famiglia orbiting about in the outer reaches of a sea of progressives in the People's Republic of Planet Secular.

Despite the family's religiousness more nominal than dogmatic— and thank heavens!— we did enjoy contemporary films, though, due to Aristotelian tendencies just a few really and though we were not opposed to visits to Blockbuster or Beacon Video we owned but a few.

And so on a Tuesday morning in February sick with a sinus infection deviated septum and antibiotics on the horizon of my life this Kippy would settle onto the Cranberry Couch placed perpendicular to the television in the little den and would select— for maximum viewing pleasure— a VHS cassette tape.

The cassettes were housed like books on a bookshelf close to the window and above the VHS player. And while the den had many books and even some encyclopedias and tomes that sat in a fine layer of dust it was the video section of the bookshelf to which I was most drawn.

Some videos were hidden in an ersatz book sleeve to appear as though they were matching books with little numbers the case didn't fool me! I knew just what lay inside—four recordings of *Anne of Green Gables* the prime viewing pleasure of my youth recorded haphazardly from a PBS marathon.

Other videos bore labels with the handwriting of my father's nostalgic slant or my mother's teacherly exactitude or my sister's artistic bent.

A few even had this Kippy's chicken scratch the youngest member of the foursome mine was an innocence of mess

My videos were representative of my filmmaking efforts.

*Whatever happened to the video wherein I played a troll with a blanket for troll hair?? I know it was a master piece. I just know it. And yet I'll never know. Lost to the ages.*

But most of the tapes on the shelf weren't original films but films that had been recorded on TV with maybe a commercial or two to fast forward through or a PBS money drive to skip over and a few hard edits if someone was late to press record

for they were simply using the bathroom or getting a cookie or two during the commercial break or perhaps procuring a bowl of ice cream for another member of the family

and so it was with equal parts horror and delight that— as an adult—

I discovered the beginnings to many films were not in fact the ones I remembered and in fact made more narrative sense on second thought for punctual recording wasn't a priority to my clan.

*does this explain my tendency for surrealist story structures that start in the middle and go absolutely no where??*

A few videos baldly sat displayed in their own official sleeves:

*A Town Like Alice*  
*Cinema Paradiso*  
*Back to the Future*

And so a on a Tuesday home from school with some ailment a light fever a sinus infection a touch of strep a wisp of conjunctivitis I would select the 1985 class.

Marty McFly was always a draw— especially if I was merely sick in the nose but jaunty in spirits



Anne of Green Gables was reserved for more existential crises, and I have returned to her over and over again throughout the years for comfort and solace in the most troubling of times when I have found that even I am not immune to falling into the depths of despair

And so in I'd pop the Back to the Future cassette tape and wonder who the Libyans were and what exactly a flux capacitor was! And I would imagine—with great feeling, mind you—the moment in my life that I would travel to another time. For surely, eventually, with technology A time machine would exist!

*I wonder if perhaps writing is the medium for my temporary time travels?*

O! For what I wouldn't give to zip back to the den at 30 Powell Street And find the oriental rug in tact the mushroom chair squatting cheerfully the cranberry couch sprawling and stately the plant by the window my mother would sometimes have me water the tall trash can with the flotsam and jetsam of life me aiming from the Cranberry Couch a used tissue as my basket ball crying out "Score!" if the snot laden bundle landed in the bin

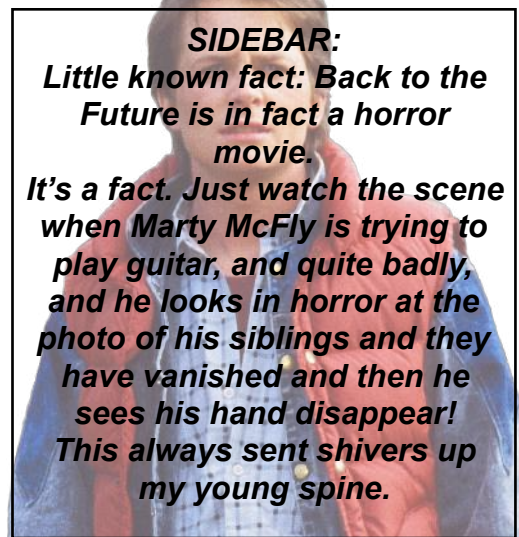
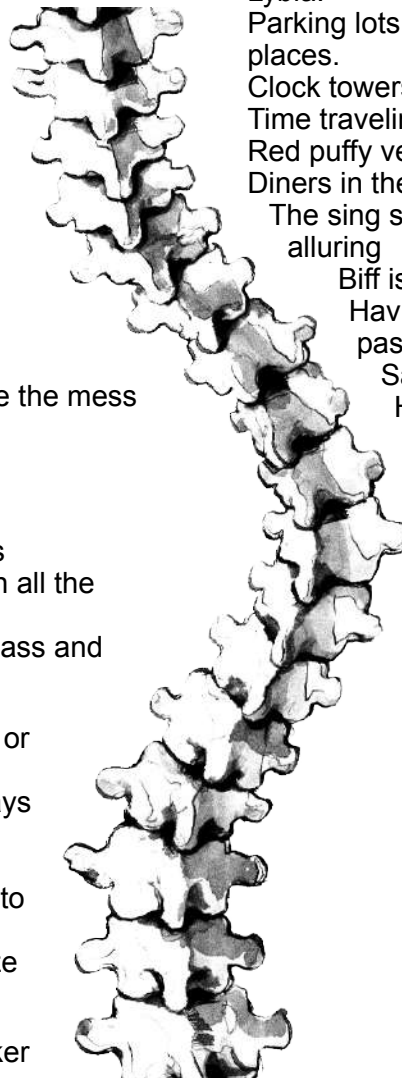
These quiet victories of youth.

Oh to know this whipper-snapper before the mess of life!

Mine was a pre-scoliosis spine  
A spine that did ballet and soccer  
A spine that carried books in backpacks  
And binders and erasers and rulers with all the presidents on them  
A spine that did jumping jacks in gym class and won presidential fitness awards

A spine that didn't yet know shavasana or the feeling of an aching heart  
A spine that believed in Santa and always slept facing the door to the hallway where my dad left the light on  
a spine afraid of the dark but not afraid to hug a bear named Tiger  
or play a stuffed Bee the a smile the size of a rainbow.

A spine so exuberant that masking darker melancholies was hardly any trouble.



### **SIDEBAR:**

**Little known fact: Back to the Future is in fact a horror movie.**

**It's a fact. Just watch the scene when Marty McFly is trying to play guitar, and quite badly, and he looks in horror at the photo of his siblings and they have vanished and then he sees his hand disappear! This always sent shivers up my young spine.**

### **Things I learned in Back to the Future**

Skateboarding is cool.  
Riding a skateboard and hitching onto a moving car is even more cool.  
Plutonium.  
Lybia.  
Parking lots outside of malls at night are terrifying places.  
Clock towers are dope.  
Time traveling is dope.  
Red puffy vests also dope.  
Diners in the 1950s are spooky.  
The sing song slight lisp of Marty McFly's mom is alluring  
Biff is a bully and bullies are the worst.  
Having your parent fall in love with in the past would be really weird and unsettling.  
Saving your family is cool.  
Huey Lewis and the News.  
Earth Angel.  
You don't need money.  
Don't need fame.  
Don't need no credit card to ride in this lane. ♦





# HOW I FLOSS

FEATURING Johnny Bubniak

**From:** New York, NY

**Occupation:** Actor

**Flossing Weapon of Choice:** Spool floss. The plastic flossers break too easily, and if you're going to floss, you have to be thorough, and the only way to be thorough is with traditional floss.

**Relationship to Flossing:** My relationship to flossing is borderline OCD. I have a problem where every time I eat I have to floss my teeth or else, when I talk to someone, I'll feel like I'm spitting food on them.

**Your dentist must love you - do you get positive feedback from your dentist that you're an ideal flosser?** No actually my dentist tells me I should floss more. I guess you can never floss too much.

**How long do you go between flossings?** If I don't floss right after I eat, I won't be able to talk to anyone *until* I floss. I floss as soon as possible after I eat. I carry floss with me all the time, I probably have a roll in my bag right now.



**What is the best way to floss?** I give 20 seconds to every tooth, at least. I run my tongue over my teeth so I can feel the gaps and then I floss those gaps.

**What value judgement do you place on flossing outside of your own habits? Do you think other people should floss?** Absolutely, people should floss for the same reason I floss. If you don't you're just spitting food on people. Personally, I don't like to date anyone that doesn't floss. I want to start putting it on dating apps so my priorities are very clear.

**Do you floss in public or in private?**

I floss in private, it's a very private matter. If you feel something stuck in your teeth, excuse yourself from wherever you are, go to the bathroom, and floss it out.

**Is it sustainable to floss?**

Maybe not, but on a micro level, cleaner teeth means a cleaner world. Be mindful of what you put in your mouth and what you put in the trash. Eat less meat and recycle more. Floss.

Follow [@f.lossier](#) for found pics of found picks and submit your own to [waifmagazin3@gmail.com](mailto:waifmagazin3@gmail.com)

***YOU  
CAN'T  
SPELL  
WAIF  
WITHOUT  
AII***

***By Satchie Snellings***

First things first, I never intended to know anything about AI. But since life has tricked me into learning about this technology, which is somehow met with an even split of reverence and eye rolls, I thought I might as well pass it forward.

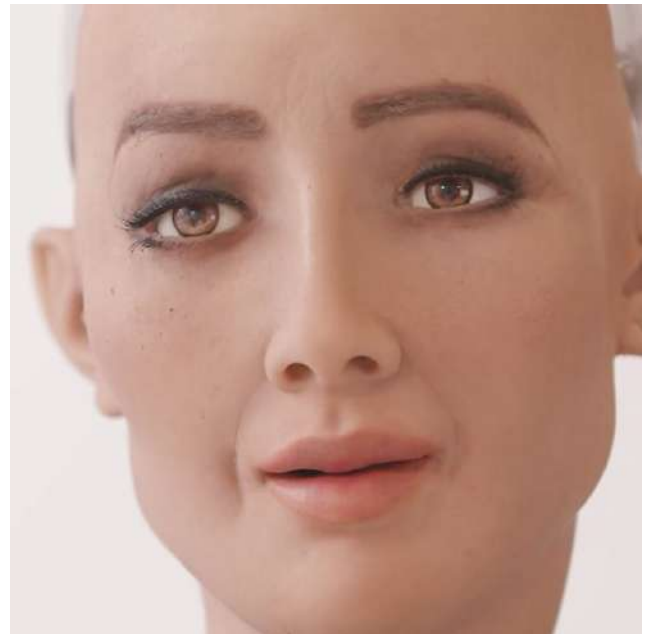
There are two dominating AI narratives, both are incredibly complex and both full of infighting. The first is the more mainstream, the second the more terrifying.

### Lane 1:

In lane one we have existing AI formally known as artificial narrow intelligence (more on that later). This conventional AI landscape is largely defined by debates around automation, job loss, driverless cars, bias and the increasingly popular concept of 'AI for Good.' Here we are primarily concerned with the consequences of AI, but not our ability to control it. We'll start here.

One of the most insightful quotes about AI fittingly comes from John McCarthy, the scientist who coined the term "artificial intelligence" in 1956. McCarthy famously said that "As soon as it works, no one calls it AI anymore." For this reason there is a common misconception that artificial intelligence is something rare and futuristic. When in reality AI is your car, your computer, its Uber and Lyft, airplanes and Gmail, even Pinterest. You know that thing where you take a picture of a check and it magically shows up in your

***“Even if automation comes about later and more smoothly than originally expected, it will still seriously disrupt most every industry.”***



account? That's AI. To its credit, artificial intelligence has indeed made daily life more efficient. It's made it a lot easier to book a flight and get quick directions. In recent years AI has found a home in just about every major industry, bringing with it the promise of innovation, a competitive advantage and fewer mistakes. What is AI getting up to in these sectors? I'm glad you asked.

In healthcare AI is making moves ranging from robotic surgery to diagnostics, while AI powered virtual nursing assistants are helping elderly patients keep to their medication schedules. In September the FDA approved an AI platform, courtesy of GE and UC San Francisco, that scans X rays with the aim of significantly reducing review time. The possibility that AI could catch mistakes and make earlier, more accurate, diagnoses is incredibly valuable. If the technology is perfected this is an area that could genuinely benefit from technological support. Meanwhile in the ever-ambitious world of finance, digital banking and loan-issuing apps are now using AI to determine who should qualify for a loan - all on your phone. AI is also used to catch credit card fraud and report suspicious activity, with the aim of preventing money-laundering and other financial crimes. Meanwhile the social media industry is massively defined by artificial

intelligence, from personalized notifications to tailoring your feed.

Throughout these industries and the rest of the corporate world, there is one phrase that reigns supreme: “AI and the future of work.” If you work for McKinsey, IBM, DeLoitte, PWC, etc., you probably love these six words, in this exact order. For you they are a gold mine. Understandably, people want to know how we are going to navigate the new, digitized world. And consultancies, major corporations and tech titans have put quite a bit of time and publicity into prediction making and unveiling multi-step plans full of retraining programs and new ideas. I, myself, have organized a number of panels on this very subject, and a consensus that I’ve encountered over the years is that automation is moving slower than expected. There is also a fair bit of optimism that while jobs will certainly be lost, more will be created as well.

Even if automation comes about later and more smoothly than originally expected, it will still seriously disrupt most every industry. The hard truth is that most of the new jobs created will likely not be looking to hire recently unemployed truck drivers. Industrial transformation is not a comfortable process, which is why this issue has made itself so central to modern politics.

Citizens are rightly hopeful that the next round of politicians will implement systems of support to help guide them into this next stage of the digital age.

One sector that is already contending with a new reality is the automobile industry. While AI is now integral to self-parking and cruise control, it will soon be running the show in the

form of autonomous vehicles. I was in San Francisco just two months ago and every time I left my office I spotted a GM Cruise, one of a fleet of driverless cars wandering the streets of San Francisco with cameras fixed on their roofs. These cars are in the process of gathering data with the intention of improving the self-driving technology before making the service available to the public. GM is not the only auto manufacturer trying to get ahead of a post-driver world. Uber and Toyota have partnered up, and nearly every major player is racing to get a foot in the industry: Volvo, Waymo, Mercedes, BMW, Nvidia, Huawei, Baidu. The list goes on.

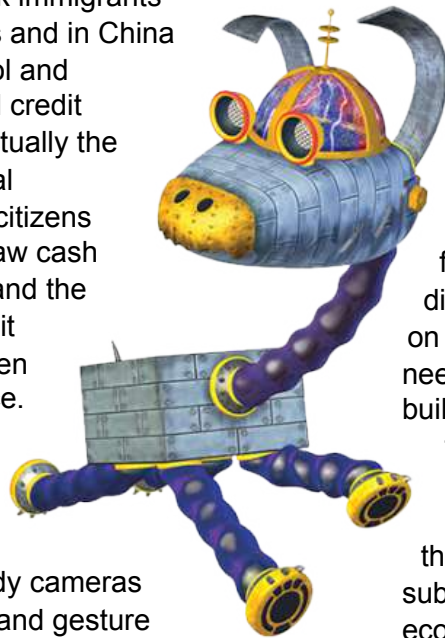
I won’t lie, on a personal level, I’m pretty wary of tech. My poor friends are stuck listening to me constantly lament about my childhood when I would wake up and stare out my window listening to the Louisiana birds chirp. Now I wake up to my phone. Like the rest of my generation, my attention span and will power are pretty much shot too. However, I will admit, I am starting to come around on this issue. I enjoy driving and I would be sad to see it fully eliminated, but on a larger scale there is a strong argument for massively decreasing the rate of accidents and lives lost in cars.

In the case of driverless cars the idea is simpler than the reality of implementation,



and the idea is hardly simple. The transition to driverless is a classic case of the tech age. One defined by policy debates, messy collaboration between the private and public sectors and a whole lot of opinions. There is a long road ahead, but integration should be easiest in sustainable cities where tech is already at the center of the city's brand, or where they want it to be. Who will be first? San Francisco? Portland? Arlington, Texas? And will our children's generation years from now pay to spend a few hours at a racetrack to experience the temporary thrill of operating their own vehicle? We'll have to wait and see.

Transitioning from human to machine rationale is not without its risks and controversies (not to mention it's just plain scary). Facial recognition and machine bias are two areas currently facing widespread concern. I just got the iPhone 11 Pro Max - \*hold for applause\* - and I can unlock it with just a glance. It's convenient, yes, but the implications behind the ease are terrifying. Handing our face over to our phones (and the companies behind them) has serious consequences for our privacy. Facial recognition technology is actively being used by ICE to track immigrants in the United States and in China to exert state control and facilitate their social credit system. China is actually the world leader in facial recognition, where citizens can use it to withdraw cash and pay for goods and the authorities can use it for never-before-seen levels of surveillance. Some Chinese police officers have even been fitted with sunglasses and body cameras that possess facial and gesture recognition technology. The privacy



***“I just got the iPhone 11 Pro Max - \*hold for applause\* - and I can unlock it with just a glance. It's convenient, yes, but the implications behind the ease are terrifying.”***

lost and potential for abuse go far beyond troubling.

Even without facial recognition, algorithmic bias poses a serious problem re: the objectivity of AI. Just last week Apple was called out for gender bias in their new Apple Card after co-founder Steve Wozniak and a second male executive revealed that they were approved for higher lines of credit than their wives. While in 2016 ProPublica brought to light the devastating racial bias in criminal risk assessments used to dictate sentencing across the US justice system. These AI empowered computer programs would produce a score judging the likelihood of a repeat offense for each person who entered the system. ProPublica's analysis revealed that black offenders were repeatedly given higher scores, and thus longer sentences, higher bails and later release, than their white counterparts. These types of algorithmic failures can further increase existing disparity and have serious consequences on human lives. It is for this reason that we need to prioritize diversity within the teams building the algorithms that will shape our future society.

Meanwhile, on the very opposite end of the AI spectrum is 'AI for Good.' This subset of the ever popular 'Tech for Good' ecosystem focuses on the potential positive



impact that AI can create. For example AI is increasing access to education online and for previously hard to reach communities across the world. There are also those designing AI to eliminate bias, not increase it. And experts across the world are actively researching how AI can help in the fight against climate change though a serious breakthrough has yet to occur.

One of the strongest examples of AI for good that I've encountered is Raheem AI. The company was created after founder Brandon Anderson lost his partner Raheem to a police shooting during a routine traffic stop. The policeman who shot and killed Raheem had a history of being abusive during these types of traffic stops, but he had never been formally reported. Inspired by his grief and the pervasiveness of police violence towards his community, Brandon launched Raheem: an AI empowered independent service for reporting police conduct. In the United States 95% of people who have faced police violence have not reported it. Raheem AI was

launched to change this fact and empower citizens to put their experiences on record. Raheem AI partners with community oversight structures, advocates and public defenders to share this data and fight for accountability and justice. I met Brandon last year and heard his story. He is a deeply kind and passionate individual working for justice in a severely broken system.

I meant it when I said AI had found its way into every industry - from medicine to finance, social media to activism, and even art. If you really want to feel crazy [check out this song](#) written and performed by machine intelligence. Is this the next frontier of art or is it the death of it? Questions like these tend to dominate the AI narrative, most often in the form of debates on the topics we've discussed so far - the future of work, automation, bias, privacy and to what extent AI can be used for good. But this is the obvious AI narrative, the comprehensible one. Through this lens, humans are still in control of the technology. There is an entire other side of the coin.

## Lane 2:

Okay, let's zoom out. There are three types of AI.

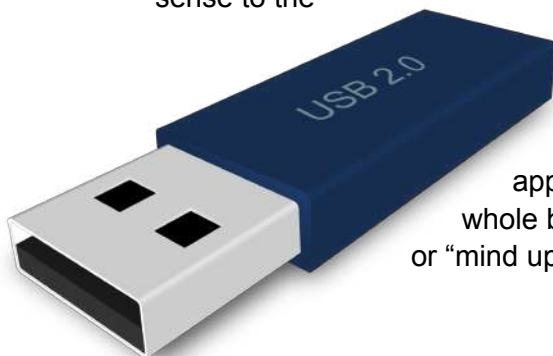
**#1. Artificial narrow intelligence (ANI):** This is the one we've been talking about for the last 4 pages. In fact, this is the only one currently in existence. From the most simplistic AI to the most complex, all AI today is ANI. ANI are given this name because their scope is, well, narrow. All existing AI are programmed to perform specific tasks autonomously. Even if an AI can beat every human alive at chess, it still can't spot every stop sign in the "Are you a robot?" test. For that matter, it can't understand the difference between a photo of a rabbit and one of a toad. Its capabilities are limited to the task it is programmed to do and that is all. Since all

existing AI falls under this category, we will have to get theoretical from here on out. Bear with me.

## #2. Artificial general intelligence (AGI):

AGI is a theoretical AI whose intellectual power is equal to, or surpassing, that of a human. Not only could this AI identify every square with a stoplight in it, but it could drive a car, translate a language, perform surgery, not to mention communicate and think abstractly and creatively - just like a human. Except where a human is limited by the size of the brain and energy of the human body, AGI would (theoretically) not face such limitations. AGI would possess the skills unique to a human mind - to communicate, perceive and learn. It could develop new skills and talents independently, no longer confined to the limits of its original programming. This is no small feat, achieving AGI would arguably be the most consequential technological advancement in human history.

Despite the unknowable consequences of AGI, the race is very much on to create this technology. In 2014 Google acquired Deepmind, an AI company founded by Demis Hassabis that is actively working to achieve AGI. There are a number of theories across the scientific spectrum on how this might actually be done. The dominant theory from the 1950s through the 1980s was symbolic artificial intelligence, wherein scientists attempted to explicitly outline all the rules and facts of human knowledge. It eventually proved unsuccessful as they were unable to teach implicit knowledge or common sense to the machine.



Another popular theoretical approach is whole brain emulation or "mind uploading" (Yep,



I said, mind uploading). The goal here is to replicate the brain, potentially by slicing it scanning it and reconstructing it in a 3-D software model, then copying it to a computer. One particularly concerning approach is to create an ANI programmed to achieve AGI and let the computer try and teach itself. Meanwhile, DeepMind founder Hassabis believes the solution is to focus on the ways in which the brain processes information, such as how it learns by replaying experiences during sleeping hours. Which, if any of these theories is correct remains unclear. A number of experts believe that we are vastly underestimating the challenge at hand, while others believe we could reach AGI within the next two decades (more on that later).

The fact is AGI, like ANI, would still be a computer program. No matter its intelligence it would still theoretically be loyal to its base algorithm. For this reason there are many



among the futurism community who believe that we can create AGI for the greater good, also known as “friendly AI.” The AI company OpenAI was founded with this in mind. Founded in 2015 by Elon Musk, Sam Altman, Ilya Sutskever, and Greg Brockman, OpenAI released a charter outlining its mission: “to ensure that artificial general intelligence (AGI)—by which we mean highly autonomous systems that outperform humans at most economically valuable work—benefits all of humanity.” The company was launched with \$1 billion to fund such research. Backers included Musk, Reid Hoffman, co-founder of LinkedIn, Peter Thiel, co-founder of PayPal and others. In 2019 Microsoft invested \$1 billion in OpenAI as part of an exclusive computing partnership between the two companies. With Google in possession of DeepMind and Microsoft partnered with OpenAI, these two companies are arguably in competition to achieve AGI - a feat whose consequences are *literally* impossible to contemplate.

The controversy around AGI is mostly centered on loss of control. If we achieve AGI, will humans still be the dominant species on earth? By definition AGI would be our intellectual equivalents, and what would stop them from surpassing us? A popular belief among AI experts is: nothing would stop them. It is only a question of how soon and what next?

**#3. Artificial Superintelligence (ASI):** ASI is a theoretical future technology whose intellect surpasses that of humans. ASI would hypothetically come about as the inevitable

result of AGI and officially replace humans at the top of the intelligence chain. The moment wherein ASI is achieved is commonly referred to as “The Singularity.” If you’ve heard this term before, it was most likely in a sci-fi film such as *The Matrix*, in those parts of the internet dedicated to futurism, or within a series of heated debates between the leading minds in tech. The concept of the singularity is understandably controversial as well as ripe to be made into sci-fi content - TV, films and books alike.

The issue with ASI is that we are genuinely incapable of imagining how such superior intelligence would materialize, much like how a chimpanzee cannot imagine AirPods or

nuclear weapons. Plus, the intelligence disparity between us and ASI may well be 10, 100 or 1000 times greater than that between us and the chimpanzee. These are the thoughts that keep AI experts up at night (see Tim Urban’s Intelligence

Staircase). This and what would these machines do with us? Could they solve climate change and cure cancer? *Would they? Would they then leave us alone to live life as we know it?* My instinct is to say, “not likely,” but that would be arrogant. The only real answer is: We don’t know.

In a profile of Google and Deepmind *The Economist’s 1843 Magazine* wrote of a world with ASI:

“Since this future is constructed entirely on a scaffolding of untested presumptions, it is a matter of almost religious belief whether one considers the Singularity to be Utopia or hell.” In his remarkably in-depth two-part blog on the road from ANI to AGI and ASI, “The AI

**“What would these machines do with us? Could they solve climate change and cure cancer? Would they? Would they then leave us alone to live life as we know it?”**

Revolution,” Tim Urban made the case that the Singularity will either lead to human immortality or extinction. It bears asking: If these are the potential consequences of ASI, why exactly are we trying so hard to create AGI?

But since we are (see Google, Microsoft, IBM Watson), the next best question is: When is this all going to happen? There are only a few existing studies on this matter and it is important to keep in mind that these predictions are entirely theoretical. In 2013 leading AI expert Nick Bostrom and Vincent C. Müller surveyed hundreds of AI experts on when they predicted human-level machine intelligence (AGI) would exist, and how long from that point until ASI. The survey concluded that:

“The median estimate of respondents was for a one in two chance that high-level machine intelligence will be developed around 2040-2050, rising to a nine in ten chance by 2075. Experts expect that systems will move on to superintelligence in less than 30 years thereafter. They estimate the chance is about one in three that this development turns out to be ‘bad’ or ‘extremely bad’ for humanity.”

All things considered, I’ve seen worse odds.

In 2018, Martin Ford author of *Architects of Intelligence* asked 23 leading AI experts by what year they think there will be at least a 50% chance of AGI existing. Interviewees included Hassabis, Jeff Dean, Google’s AI

Chief, and Fei Fei Li, the director of Stanford’s AI Lab. 18 out of the 23 answered and only two went on record, prominent futurist Ray Kurzweil said 2029 and roboticist Rodney Brooks said 2200. The average of all the predictions was 2099. Noting the disparity between his survey and Bostrom and Müller’s Ford suggested age might be a factor. A number of the experts he spoke with were in their seventies and decades in the industry taught them that progress moves slower than we might assume. Again, all of these surveys are highly theoretical but Ford’s does suggest that few of us alive today will live to see our machine equals.

As is to be expected on such a high-stakes and theoretical topic, the world of AI experts is pretty split. Kurzweil is the most prominent advocate for an accelerated timeline, pointing to exponential growth and the increasing rate of invention experienced in the last half century. Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen is a known

believer in a more conservative timeline, if any, arguing that we are seriously underestimating the unprecedented challenge of reaching AGI. Bostrom, world-renowned AI thinker and director of Oxford’s Future of Humanity Institute, takes a more diplomatic lens. He argues that there is truly no way to predict such a timeline, it could happen any day or it may never occur.

Before his death Stephen Hawking gave a number of interviews on AI and the future of humanity. In 2014 he told the BBC that AI could bring about the end of humanity. He warned that, “Humans, who are limited by slow biological evolution, couldn’t compete,

***“The more we understand AI the more we can understand our daily life, the shape our policies should take, how we interact and how we work, and, most importantly, what kind of future we want.”***

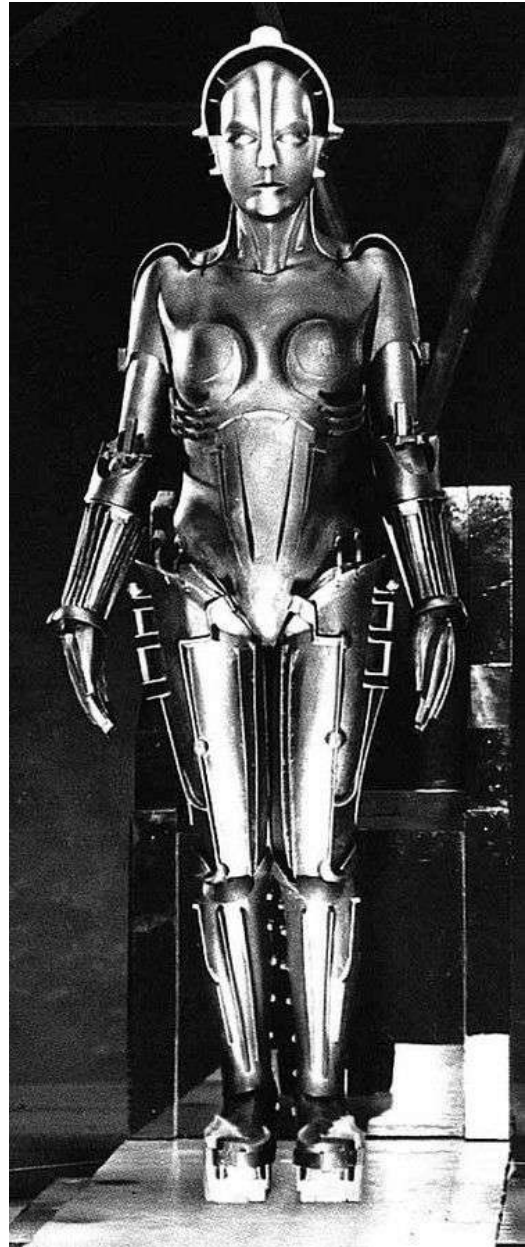
and would be superseded...[AI] could take off on its own, and re-design itself at an ever increasing rate." In 2017 during a speech at Web Summit in Lisbon, Hawking too admitted to not knowing what would come of this technology, if it would help us, ignore us, or destroy us entirely. He cautioned that we must learn how to prepare for and avoid the risks that could come from AI, and in the end his was a hopeful message. Hawking stated, "I am an optimist and I believe that we can create AI for the good of the world. That it can work in harmony with us. We simply need to be aware of the dangers, identify them, employ the best possible practice and management, and prepare for its consequences well in advance."

Even the optimists - and I am one by nature - are wary. We need to prioritize and invest in AI safety research. AI safety - above all other interests - must remain at the forefront of any and all efforts to develop AGI, because the fact of the matter is we really only get one shot at this. So we better get it right.

If I leave you with anything today, let it be this: how we go about developing this technology matters - a lot. I said it in the last paragraph and I'll say it again here - safety is vital. Beyond this point, how you feel about AI is completely up to you. Are you a techno optimist? Do you think we're doomed for extinction? If so, when? Do you think this is all sci-fi nonsense? I've laid out the facts as they stand but in a world of theories, everyone gets to make a prediction.

AI today (ANI) is far less theoretical. Issues of data privacy, facial recognition, bias and automation will continue to define the coming decades. From how we engage with the companies creating this tech to who we vote for will be influenced by these issues. One thing is for sure: whether we like it or not, AI is a big part of the new world. Unless something monumental changes, it is how

the world works and where the world is going. The more we understand AI the more we can understand our daily life, the shape our policies should take, how we interact and how we work, and, most importantly, what kind of future we want. ♦



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Imart



# ***THE BLOB//***

***With no brain but the ability to solve puzzles, no mouth but a love for oatmeal and with 720 possible sexes divided into "Locis," the Blob is the Paris Zoo's hottest bachelor. But it can only mate with its exact sex. Could you be the one in 720? Start by figuring out which "Locis" you are and take it from there. Good luck Blob-heads.***

# WHICH BLOB SEX LOCI ARE YOU?

## SCARE

Your friends describe you as

Fun to hang with

What friends

Would you eat leftovers over 2 weeks old?

Delicious, extra tangy!

Hell No

Whats your favorite sound?

The Ocean

ASMR Chewing

If you found out your partner was cheating you would

Cry & Cry

Construct a plot to kill

You never leave home without your:

hand sanitizer

leather flogger whip

You find a freshly dead bird while out on a walk

Roast the sucker

Give it a proper burial

How often do you speak to your parent(s)?

I swear I had nothing to do with their murder

every day!

Be honest: Have you ever craved human blood?

Omg Vom!

When My Lord is dripping it on me



### MatA

#### YOU'RE PSYCHOTIC

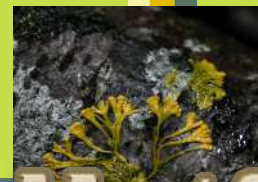
The dominant Blob sex type seems to have gotten to your head. You are overrun with power and are a danger to those around you. Easy does it: You never know who's watching



### MatB

#### YOU'RE SENSITIVE

With a 50/50 chance of your dominance in passing on Blob traits, you're always worrying about something. Take a chill pill, prude! You don't want to end up eating oatmeal alone forever



### MatC

#### YOU'RE FREAKY

The recessive one around town, you've got nothing to lose. You are indulging your curiosities & letting down your guard. Be mindful, not every risk has a reward and sometimes it's nice just to sit back and solve a puzzle

**7**  
***TRUTHS***  
***ABOUT***  
***POLYAM***  
***-ORY//***

*By Sarah M. Baker*

There is a plethora of misinformation about open relationships. Separating fact from fiction is a fine line with a relationship structure that is essentially “build your own”. Years ago, I was watching the HBO show called *Big Love* with my husband and wondered if that was a relationship that my life could benefit from. As a woman who was jealous over any lady that looked his way and the fact that I generally didn’t get along with the average woman, there was no way was polygamy ever going to be an option for us, or was it? Could there be a such thing as multiple male partners living in unison? Or what if I wanted a woman partner for myself? Over the years, new concepts birthed new terms to be added to our vocabulary to encompass these evolving relationship types. Polygamy was once the only term I knew for plural marriage, I eventually learned many new terms that had sprung from other’s, just like me, looking for more. Jumping into a new relationships style is far less terrifying when you can connect with others who have the same needs.

## History and Evolution

Biblical references feature polyamory. Sects of religious or political extremists have been known to practice polyamory. They are usually portrayed as male centric polygamy and often having brides against their will. I spent many years following the example of monogamy, but often felt a piece was missing. Bouncing between partners, I never felt the full connection. Having conversations about multiple partners was not just unnerving, but it felt like betrayal. When I set out in my journey to find a relationship structure that felt right for me, I looked toward those examples. I found a man that saw through me. Loved me. Accepted me. My husband and I often joked that maybe if I made my own religion, I could have a relationship with many husbands, AKA “brother husbands”, just like “sister wives”. Was that a thing? Those early conversations set us on a path to exploration, polyamory

and never looking back. The evolution of our relationship was underway and every day it continues to change.

## Open Relationships

Is polyamory the same as swinging, open relationships, or cheating? The short answer isn’t short at all; it depends who you ask. And because the definition so widely varies, it can come under scrutiny by those who lack understanding. Swinging can be defined as casual sex with strangers or friends. Whether it is going to clubs, house parties or meeting up with regular friends, the experiences are limitless and designed to

fulfill fantasies in a safe and ethical way. Open relationships often come with “don’t ask, don’t tell” policies. While not always the case, many open relationships are designed to fulfill sexual needs that aren’t met in the primary relationship. While open relationships may or may not have the emotional

connection that polyamory has, that sometimes comes into play.

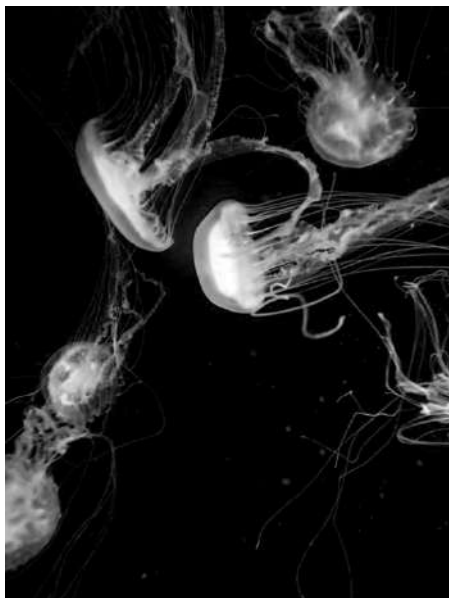
***“The common ground that all polyamorous relationships share is that no one is forced to poly the same way as anyone else.”***



There is occasional overlap between all these structures. My husband and I decided to enter the world of poly by dipping our toes into going to swing clubs and creating online dating profiles. After all, these open forums seemed like the best first step in finding someone even remotely open to what we had in mind. Fearful and giddy, we had no idea

where this would go. Our goal was to find a single male that we could experiment with safely. Experimentation turned to something that looked like love and there was no going back. The biggest realization through that experiment was, I *could* love two people at once. My love for my husband wasn't lessened by the emotional connection I found with a second partner. If anything, it was strengthened. Surprising and yet exactly what I had dreamed of.

Open relationships are part of polyamory, but not all people practicing openness consider themselves poly. There can be feelings and no sexual relationship, there can be sexual relationships without any emotional connection. Friendships and partnerships are not a requirement in swinging or openness, yet they are a firm component of polyamory.



### **Cheating**

In polyamorous support and chat forums, cheating is often what leads couples to the path of polyamory, at least in older generations. Polyamory is nowhere near mainstream, but it is more well-known than it was a decade ago, which is something that cheaters are now taking advantage of. When a partner finds out about an affair, it is not even a little ethical to claim polyamory to excuse the deceitful behavior. Ethical non-monogamy takes honesty, trust, disclosure,

and boundaries. While a poly person should not be expected to suppress who they are, neither should a monogamous person be given the ultimatum to allow a cheating partner to continue under the guise of polyamory. Cheating unfortunately can still happen in a polyamorous relationship. It can take a few different forms. It can be the sudden urge to feel newness and excitement that being in an open relationship negates. Going out and having a secret partner, for some, may be appealing. For others, cheating could be considering lying to partners in order to spend more time with a partner on a day that is not scheduled. While this partner is approved and part of the polyamorous relationship, the deceit is painful nonetheless. Polyamory is not an excuse for bad behavior.

### **Jealousy**

Jealousy is inevitable. Anyone who tells you otherwise is either lying or is lucky enough to not experience typical emotions. What is concerning is when people don't give themselves the grace to feel what they are experiencing. When the ugly monster of jealousy appears, it's an opportunity. A person can use this opportunity for internal reflection and to communicate the trigger. Both self-reflection and discussing causes can lead to not only personal growth, but also relationship growth. Jealousy can be an isolating feeling or the chance to connect deeper and more intimately; it is up to the individual to decide what they will allow it to become. There are bound to be new and unforeseen circumstances that periodically induce the unwanted emotion, even the best planning cannot prevent jealousy. A tactic I use in my relationships is to overanalyze every potential scenario and what measures can be taken to ease any discomfort while allowing for boundaries to be pushed to explore new situations safely. Caring for one





another is a necessity in respect and securing a future together.

## Boundaries

Are boundaries the same as rules? Maybe. Maybe not. With everything else poly, boundaries are unique to the participating partners and are often evolving. Boundaries and rules can act as safeguards, but it doesn't mean everything always goes as planned. You can prepare for something that seems terrifying and it be a non-issue, while something that is so miniscule ends up triggering the biggest meltdown next to Chernobyl. Some relationship units stress the importance of allowing all partners the free agency to make their own choices without fault. Others may be more aware of the consequences and their partner's feelings and choose to place ground rules to keep everyone in check. Knowing what kind of polyamorous relationship you are entering will help you in the long run. There is a lot of communicating going on in polyamorous relationships.

## How to Poly

My favorite aspect of polyamory is that there are no set of definitive rules. There is not a one size fits all. The common ground that all polyamorous relationships share is that no one is forced to poly the same way as anyone else. There may be some generalizations for context to ease explanation, but the way any unit practices polyamory will differ. It could be a matter of three people in a tight triangle or eight people interconnected in different branches. Intimacy and frequency can vary in partners.

Some follow hierarchical polyamory where there are primaries or people who have more power in the relationship. This is most often seen when married couples open their relationship up but fear the new partner will "steal" something away or worse yet, break the marriage. It tends to get a bad rap in the community who idealizes polyamory as a freedom of relationship choices. While some hierarchical relationships practice power and vetoes, others take it with a much more relaxed definition. Simply meaning that a new partner will not have the history, shared

responsibility or familiarity that comes with long term partnership; therefore, their rules and requests often look different than the longer involved partner. A drastic opposite of hierarchical is relationship anarchy. While still in a relationship or multiple relationships, there may not be anyone married, cohabitating, sharing children, finances or even schedules. This style is very. Members of this type of polyamory are often the ones that lack the jealousy bug. They are content, happy and free.

Kitchen Table is a type of polyamory I practice. We are open to new relationships at any given time; however, we do not allow relationships to evolve and become full time, long term commitments if all partners do not get along. We look at our relationships as an extension of our family unit and if we cannot all sit down for dinner together, then it's likely not going to fit our family or lifestyle.

## Definition

*Polyamory means many loves.* When I am asked to describe polyamory, I can answer in two ways. When I had my second son, my love was not divided between my two boys, rather my love grew, it multiplied. I love them each uniquely and abundantly. Additionally, I look to friendships. I have several "best" friends and many more friends I consider close. Each friend has a quality that drew me to them. In no way does having multiple friendships invalidate any of the other friendships. Rather having all the friendships not only serves me different purposes, but also allows me to grow as a person and have my experiences broadened. What aspect of polyamory intrigues you most?

**Is Waif** – ethical non-monogamy or monogamy

**Is NOT Waif** - Cheating and Ultimatums

**Is Waif** – Acceptance of non-traditional relationships

**Is Not Waif** – Discrimination of relationships that do not affect your own relationship

**Is Waif** – Compersion (the feeling of happiness when your partner is happy.) But jealousy **is also waif**, because it's a natural emotion that stems from insecurity and can result in growth. ♦

*INTERN'S CORNER*

***REVIEWIN***

***-G***

***TIMOTHEE***

***CHALAME***

***-T'S THE***

***KING//***

*By Intern Joan Flaherty*



I pride myself in my originality, however I have no shame in admitting I follow the mainstream with my beliefs in Timothee Chalamet both as an actor and aesthetically as a person. While, I can say that I find it a little odd that so many girls fell in love with him based on his performance in *Call Me By Your Name* since it depicted a tender plot of love between two men, his talent did fuel what his appearance was already doing for me. He's objectively attractive, especially in 2020 where (thankfully) men are beginning to adopt more "feminine" expressions as opposed to a fight of masculinity. Timothee looks like an anemic oil painting and that just might be my type. I admit that I've seen the majority of the films Chalamet has starred in, even *Hot Summer Nights*. So when I found out Timothee Chalamet would be the star of David Michod's *The King*, I was honestly really excited for the opportunity to watch 2 hours and 20 minutes of Timothee Chalamet in 15th century clothing. And it featured Timothee with long hair *and* a bowl cut. Honestly, it seemed like a great movie viewing experience. It all seemed so, dare I say, waif. Or that's what I thought.

November 1st hit. *The King* is finally released on Netflix. I am sitting in the green room for the production of a BDSM production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* I was Assistant Stage Managing. Having no real tasks to do during the show, I decide to take out my laptops put on my ugly, ugly Beats headphones and turn on *The King*. The first scene was scenic. How pretty, I thought. A minute had passed of scenery and horses and the middle ages when fear overcame me. Timothee Chalamet had yet to enter the frame and my interest with dwindling.

The minutes to follow felt like centuries- it was fine I suppose. And finally: he came on. His hair long and wavy. How nice it looked. His aesthetic appearance fit the time period so well. But much to my fear a minute of screen time had passed featuring Timothee Chalamet

and I was still bored. Yes, Timothee Chalamet is attractive, but I was forced to come to the realization that this movie was boring. It was basically the plot of Shakespeare's *Henry VI Pt 1 & 2* and I could barely get through that play. I read the first part but was too bored to read part 2, so I lied to my friends who like Shakespeare and told them I loved it. Now, my sins had come back to confront me as I was watching a movie that was my own double edged sword. It had Timothee Chalamet, yes, but it was also the plot of the most boring Shakespeare play I had ever (somewhat) read.

One hour into the movie or maybe it was only twenty minutes, someone stopped and asked me how I was enjoying the movie- did I like Timothee Chalamet's performance? I had to take in the question, really take it in. I love Chalamet, he's a great actor and will get better gigs than I probably ever will. But in *The King*? Not to be a hater or betray my allegiance to Chalamet, b-but. But, I didn't. He sounded like he was gargling of rocks or that the cigarette smoking he did in *Call Me By Your Name* had finally caught up to him. Maybe his portrayal of the role is just who the character is? All I know is after completing the whole movie I found out he was supposed to have a British accent- I couldn't tell.

I could tell, however, that Robert Pattinson was supposed to be French. I am not even French and I was offended by his accent. He would've been perfect in *Monty Python*. With that said Robert Pattinson's Prince of France might have been my favorite part of the movie. Pattinson knew what he was doing when he spoke with that accent - it wasn't that he had a bad dialect coach. He knows he'll probably get an Oscar nomination for *The Lighthouse* and knew that that film would be released around the same time as *The King*. So he said: fuck it! Let me collect this





The King. Lily Rose Depp was fine because she was in the movie for five minutes and almost exclusively spoke French, a language I personally don't speak. Timothee Chalamet sounded like there was rocks stuck in his throat,, I hope his cigarette smoking in CMBYN hasn't finally caught up with him.”

I got no likes. I think what I wrote was a little too edgy and controversial for the other users. Maybe.



bag! Or at least that's my theory. His character kept me awake. As I did fall asleep multiple times whilst watching the film. In fact, finishing *The King* was a three day long affair, as I fell asleep twice. Two hour twenty minutes has never felt longer. And the whole time I was wondering when Lily Rose Depp would make an appearance! When she finally entered the screen I was overcast with fear that we were nowhere near the end of the film, however it turns out she was truly only in the movie for five minutes. The amount of press she got deceived me! Depp was good in the film, she spoke French a lot which I do not speak so can not put much judgment on her performance. Of course, I'm jealous of her. *The King* is what got Lily Rose Depp and Timothee Chalamet together -- that's a lot of girl's dream.

Immediately after finishing the film, I created a Letterboxd account. I followed no one because I saw no point. I had one purpose to be on this website and it was to review this film. My first review I wrote:

“Every actor in the king knew exactly what they were getting themselves into. Robbert Pattinson clearly didn't give a fuck about this performance and because of that his performance in the king was arguably the best. Everyone was either too much or too little. It took me three attempts to finish this movie as the first two times I fell asleep and woke up the next morning to see that, much to my surprised, I slept through not only the king but whatever unrelated TV series is recommended to watch after

Overall, the film made me question do I really want to take my European History gen ed next semester? Or am I now ahead of the game because I watched *The King* and now the history of Henry V. Am I finally at the place to go back and revisit *Henry VI part 1 and 2*? I think I might be, but only time will tell. But the most important question to come out of my viewing of *The King* is: is it waif? And I have to say overall no. But Robert Pattinson's portrayal in it is. And Timothee Chalamet's bowl cut in the film for sure is. My allegiance still lies with Timothee Chalamet and I'm counting down the days till *Little Women*, but you can't love every aspect of a person. And I just can't love *The King*.

Made me question:do I want to take a european history class ♦

***WAIF:  
WHAT  
DOES IT  
MEAN?//***

***By Sarah B. Curtis***

"What does that mean?" was the very first thought to cross my mind when I stumbled upon *Waif*. Not knowing what to expect I dove head-first into some issues of this so-called magazine.

"Wow, this is actually really great!" I was stunned, this digest named "Waif" was so cool and the idea of a "waif" was just so not.

"Waif...what kind of name is Waif? You know, come to think of it...I'm not really sure I even know what that means. I mean I know that there was a character referred to as 'the waif' in *Game of Thrones* but that was just a dirty young kid, that can't possibly be what this magazine is talking about."

### waif

noun (1) \ 'wāf \

**Definition of waif 1a:** a stray person or animal *especially:* a homeless child

"So, a waif is a misfit? Okay, maybe I'm getting somewhere with this!" I

decided that going directly to the source for more information would be the thing to do, this would definitely point me in the right direction toward enlightenment. I would ask Waif Magazine themselves how in the world the idea of a young person who appears homeless or malnourished left such a lasting impression on them that it would become the name of their publication! Knuckles cracked, I was ready to get some answers out of these people!

"Dear Waif,  
Where on Earth did the inspiration come from to name your magazine "waif" of all things?  
Sincerely,  
An intrigued, new reader"

Patiently awaiting a response I saw I had a new message. This was it, this was this time I would finally have an explanation! However, to my surprise, my inquiry to Waif was countered with none other than a question of their own:



"Hi!

Thanks for reading *Waif*! Great question, I'm actually curious to know what you think! What does *Waif* mean to you?"

Well, without further ado, here is what Waif means to me!

Waif is unconventional. Waif is sassy. Waif is today. Waif is the future! These are some of the qualities I find Waif and I share most in common, actually. It is incredibly refreshing to know that there is a magazine out there to tell our narrative on today's society as young people! It's not *Cosmo* clueing us in on "how to make him love you" or "what he really thinks about your pet rock" or whatever other patriarchal tidbits they are urged to share with the public. Disclaimer: not going to lie, I do like to

dabble in their hot celebrity gossip and read their horoscopes every once in a full moon!

*Waif* doesn't have a traditional name like *Vogue* or *Time* or *Better Homes and Gardens* because *Waif* is not a traditional magazine and neither are its readers! It doesn't tell you how to dress like *Harper's Bazaar* or your mother. If Waif has any kind of "agenda" at all, it's to just be yourself because no one does it better and you are sooo good doing it! Waif speaks to me in a language I know as well as English, and far better than my very limited Spanish: Millennial! It's our constant challenging of the rules and status quo that we Millennials are famous for. That is what Waif captures to me.

Before falling in love with this magazine I didn't know what it meant to be Waif or if it was something I wanted to be but, now I can conclude with complete certainty not only do I want to be, I always have been **waif**. ♦

**I was stunned, this digest named "Waif" was so cool and the idea of a "waif" was just so not.**





Thank you for reading Waif Magazine issue 17.

Issue 18 will be released in the New Year to analyze our obsession with selling out in the digital age

New shirts and hats on their way soon! Waitlist at [iswaif.com/clothes](http://iswaif.com/clothes)

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