

Forward/emagazine Creative Critics Competition 2020

RUNNER-UP

Hide and Seek

What the hell, I still play hide and seek, Jack and Jill
are lethal now, they're fetching a pail of poison,
I'm thirsty for damage, I can fix this, but I'm already downhill
I refuse to stop hiding, it's not fun anymore, toys in
No one's looking, no one knows I'm hiding, an escapee
"Fie, fi, fo, fum, I smell the blood of a broken one." They attack.
I cover my eyes, a filter of black, so they can't find me.
All the prayers and violence couldn't put me back
together again. I scream into my pillow, I can't fix this.
I'm alone with my childhood monster, still the space
under my bed isn't big enough for both of us. I need an abyss.
So, we've moved to the closet. I know I'm only a misplace
thinking of myself, but I can pretend that my monster is
lonely. It offered me a rose and I might've passed it
on. But my only friends are a bottle of tears and this
feeling, a tissue, a tissue. I'm not crying wolf, I'm a misfit,
and the sheep now, the bullets are invisible. Shift my gears,
Are the hits silent too? I peep through the closet door
Far, far away, my night light is still on, have you any fears?
It tempts me. But I've spent so long in the closet that I account for
all the monsters in the dark. A prisoner of your opinion.
I had a little lamb too, but I can't see her from here.
One day, I'll see her again. Abstain, I won't be your minion.
Be nimble, be quick they say. Be like Jack. I just fear.
They don't understand, justify your lies, you'll all fall down
As I was born like this, I was born a big bad wolf, I should shout
Runaway chanting, don't eat me, you can't catch me, so I wear a crown
I'll make it up the hill. A tissue, a tissue. Ready or not, I'm coming out.

Reflective commentary

This poem is called 'Hide and Seek' and it's in response to 'Rookie'. Although I interpreted 'Rookie' to be a poem about how people have the ability to have divergent sides to them, one that appears utterly normal and the other that is complete disassociated from the rest of society due to ignorance and innocence, I feel as though my poem shares elements with it. 'Hide and Seek' is from the narrative of a closeted member of the LGBT+ community and similar to 'Rookie' the verses introduce two sides. One that is seemingly innocent and ignorant to reality and the other is a deep set normality to fit in with the rest of society. In my opinion, both poems have an underlying tone of fear and isolation, like they don't feel as though they belong. Furthermore, I feel a sense of pity and sadness grips the entirety of the poems. Although my poem ends with a sense of hope and 'Rookie' ends with a feeling of utter loss both have a note of finality and acceptance of their fate.