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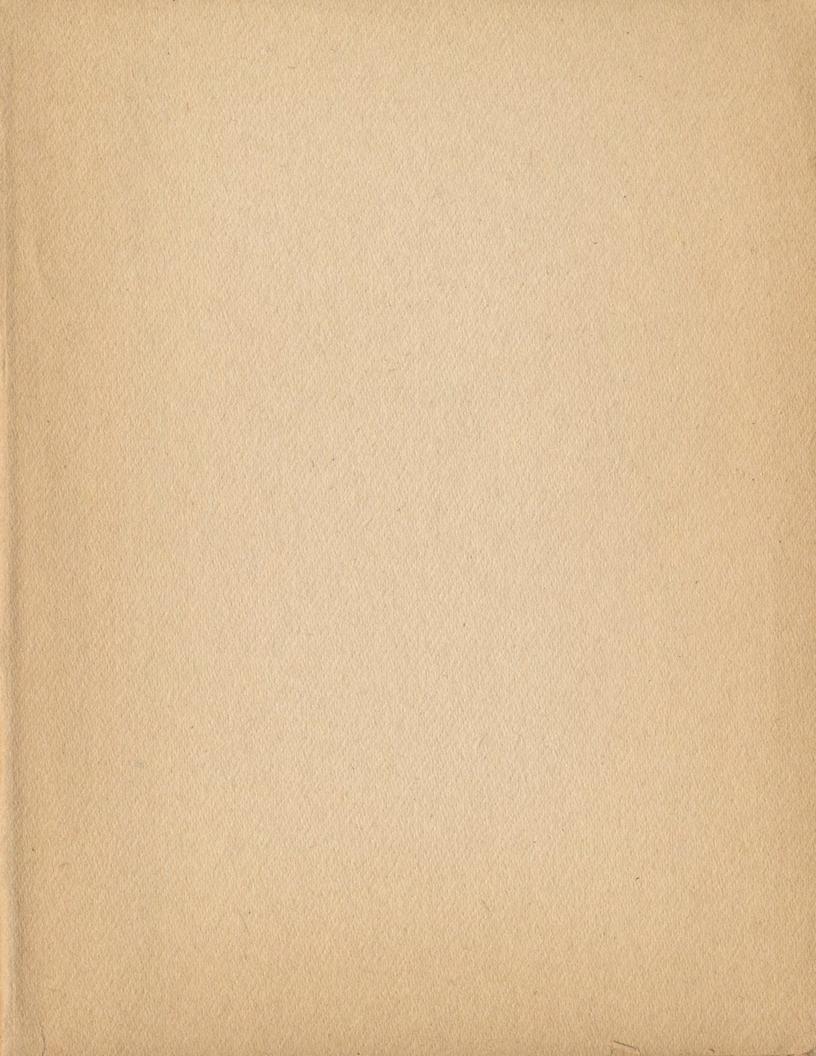
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Dear Reader,

re gret \\ri-'gret\

1: sorrow aroused by circumstances beyond one's control or power to repair

2: an expression of distressinag emotion (such as sorrow)

Are we really human if we haven't held regrets? Why do we learn to associate certain decisions or events in our life with regret? What earns them this label?

Perhaps you regret breaking ties with a past lover.

Or perhaps you regret sleeping throughout your entire summer vacation.

But are these truly regrets? Or rather, are they opportunities to reassess our lives? To think about, dwell, or ruminate on who we are, how we relate to the world, and why we may have failed.

Is it possible that these are moments of healing?

Perhaps breaking ties with that past lover finally gave you the needed space you were too afraid to ask for.

Perhaps sleeping all throughout summer was a well-needed respite from a long and difficult semester.

Regrets and moment of healing are what one may call two sides of the same coin. The pieces we bring to you in this issue seek to bridge the gap between these inextricably linked concepts with the artistic poignancy of our talented members.

Sincerely, Rida Ahmed Chief Editor

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as a star she burned		
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Je sus bientôt que parfois les proverbes réputation de sagesse, que, dans certains cas qu'avec un peu de bonne volonté je pourrai conseils de mon oncle. Je ne veux pas dire commis de sottises, oh! non, la chose arriv ment, mais je réussis à me dégriser et calme relatif.

Du reste, si mon oncle m'avait grondisait lui-même, en prévision de l'av milieu o sactes et mes paroles él indulgence suilieu plein d'aménité, toises, dans sans m'en dou' et d'alliés.

Grace à contre les carvenar douairières, dui r

es grands pare In a World

The Took may be kept 4

In a world that longs to wonder, To look outside and see. How then does one remember? Go back in time, be free.

This T P V One mustn't try to change things. Keep searching for the light. Where there is truly freeness Persisting in the night.

As for you, don't try to fix history. Learn that things are Not always as they seem. Is their purpose noble? That's a mystery. But ours can be of goodwill And can gleam.

Well, learn to see the difference. The stars stand with us here, In a world that tries to dim it, Listening to their fear.

I may now seem invisible, But at least I am not blind. Riding out and into town, I've got some dreams to find.

When tears will fade away, You may see it through. In a world that glistens, Though quite out of the blue. As seldom as it seems true, Then we may start anew.

The Slating

INDEPENDENT IN

SLATINGTON, PA., FEBR

XXIX THE DEATH RECORD, TOCIAL

HIGH SCHOOL NOT

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by Angelina Lambros

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THE FIND

Daniel Wronski

hen the sun shone upon the forest the next morning, Sheriff Davis was bending down, peering at the pair of mutilated and bloody bodies down on the bed of grass in front of him. Two men were standing behind him. One was leaning against a tree while holding a long rifle in one hand and a half-eaten sandwich in the other. The other stood over the sheriff's shoulder and wore a green backpack.

"Grisly, huh?" the sheriff commented, looking back at the man leaning against the tree.

"I thought the bear was killed ten years ago."

The sheriff raised an eyebrow and said, "No, Georgie. I mean the other way it's spelled. Grisly."

Cocking his head, Georgie took another bite of his sandwich. Once he came to the realization, he murmured, "Oh."

The other man stepped forward. "Sheriff, I want to find that beast more than any man, but these bodies are already showing bone, like the grizzly."

When he finished looking over the bodies, the sheriff stood up and put his hands on his belt before turning around and saying, "I couldn't fathom how much of an animal lover you are. It's like that grizzly was your son."

"All animals that walk these woods are kin to us," replied the man. He took a final look at the bodies. "Whatever did this is no kin of mine."

Georgie chuckled and stepped forward, his sandwich already gone. "The animals in these here woods are sport to me. Law is law and game is game, Tanner."

It was then that the sheriff stood upright and spoke louder than he had and began to instruct the men. "That's it. A hunter and an animal fanatic will never help their causes if they don't work together to stop the murderous killer out there!"

"It's not a man doing this sheriff," said Tanner. "It is an alpha."

"An alpha what? Wolf, bear, buck?"

Georgie laughed at that last one. "No, sheriff. It's his ultimate fantasy to see nature's crazy

crazy twists."

Sheriff Davis shook his head as he looked past the others, through a clearing. "And here's our snake-slaying friend."

Georgie and Tanner turned their heads and saw a trio of tribal people through the clearing. They wore knee-high skirts made of yellow and red feathers and blue cloth shirts with no sleeves and red and yellow feathers attached to the shirts' surfaces as well. The leader of the three had a distinct necklace made of beads and scaly ornaments. Once he was closer, it was clear to everyone that the necklaces were snake heads, their black eyes staring deep into the woods.

"Shy man! Other fellas!" called the sheriff. "How goes the morning?"

The tribal people were silent as they approached the sheriff and the men who flanked him. Once they were close enough, the leader stopped, and the others did the same. "It is Shaman Adaym, Sheriff Davis," said the leader in a thick accent. "I do not play games with your name, especially in moments like this."

"Okay," said the sheriff. He straightened up and asked, "Do you know why I called you here, Shaman?"

"Yes. You failed to realize the threat the gods have faced us with, and now you come for help." Laughing loudly, the sheriff replied, "Shaman, I want you to inspect the body." He lowered his voice and grew somewhat humbled. "I want you to see if they were maimed like your... family members."

The shaman nodded in reply and strode over to the bodies, his tribal men staying in place. When he rounded the sheriff and beheld the entirety of the two bodies, he put a hand over his forehead. "Ahh." He began moaning and sobbing.

Tanner, visibly upset by the shaman's display, stepped over to him and offered, "What's wrong, shaman?"

"Just like my wife and daughter," he mumbled. Standing now and looking past Tanner and at the sheriff, he said, "It is the same, sheriff." He looked down at the legs of the bodies. They were bare boned, each one almost a perfect skeleton, save for the torn clothing and remaining pieces of flesh and blood. "The snake bite would have been right there,." he said, pointing to an area on the bodies.

"A snake bite?" asked the sheriff. He began to speak playfully. "I thought you cut the heads off and strewn them on your neck over there."

The shaman whipped himself around quickly. "Look," he said, pointing at his neck. "There are four. The heads regenerate."

Tanner stepped forward. "Do you think we can search the bodies for venom?"

The sheriff looked over at Georgie, and the two smirked at each other. "Yes," said the sheriff. "We did it with the victim's last time, and a substance that was connected to a common paralytic agent was found. So, you know, we have a pretty scientific monster out there." He chuckled lightly. "I'm only here to establish an M-O, fellas, not dabble in your theories."

The shaman knit his brows. "Our tribe managed to cut two heads when my daughter was killed. When it came back to kill my wife, I personally sliced off an entire snake head as it fled with my wife's body in the main head's jaws."

The sheriff grew solemn but still spoke with a small fire in his voice. "If it was that easy, why didn't you go for its actual head then?"

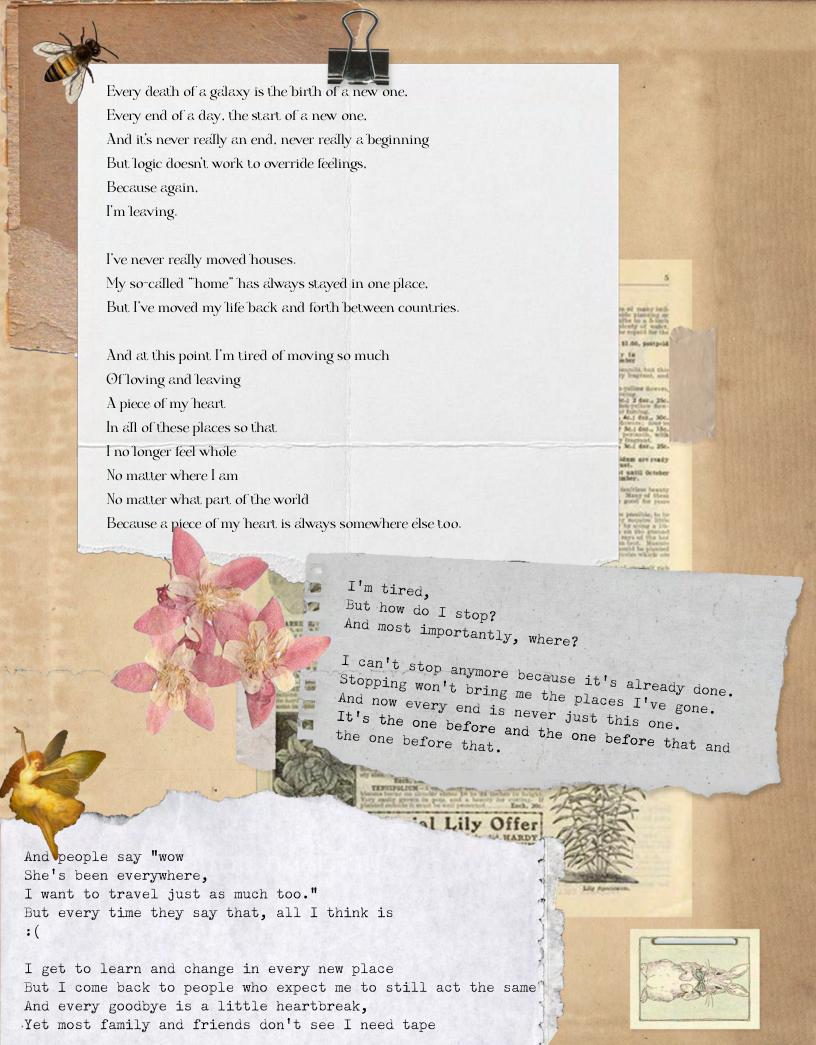
The shaman was visibly upset now. "Sheriff, a moment, please."

Sheriff Davis looked over at Tanner. "Tan, can you and Georgie bag the bodies and drop them at the station? You know I parked it just down the path. I'll take the patrol car."

Tanner nodded, but Georgie groaned as they stepped over to the bodies. "He didn't invite us up here for our expertise," he quietly muttered to Tanner.

Tanner shushed him as they watched the sheriff disappear through the woods with the shaman.





I haven't traveled enough to lose a sense of who I am
But I have traveled enough to not know where to fit in.
Not knowing where to call home.
I've stopped even asking the question
Because I have no clue where to begin to look for an answer.

But "where is home?"
Is less important to know
Then "when will love be?"

The first end was the hardest because I really believed each goodbye meant forever

That the people I felt love for, I would see maybe never

The second time
I didn't cry as much,
For I tried very hard not to open my heart.

The third end,
I cried even less
I just didn't engage so I'd have less to miss.

But then I traveled again and again and for longer periods of time, Soon my heart got tired of hiding, It welcomed new love and allowed me to shine.

I learned not to build walls,
To just let myself cry
not only for the past
but in the present when saying goodbye

It was the 17th time I said goodbye that I accepted this is my life.

It isn't just something out of the ordinary, it isn't a blue butterfly, or a four leaf clover, But an orange butterfly, a three leafed clover.

It's happened before and it'll happen again.
If I leave what I love, it's not the end of love.

e re r into editing,
e sto he way I do as

mig for places where moments not be needed."

te her own literary fiction? "None. I couldn't possibly. And the more I defined (I just read American Pastoral by Philip Roth for the first time), the nore I'm exposed to all these great oices and writers, and I couldn't begin know how writers do what they it's such an extraordinary lonely don't know how they sit down can't imagine what it is

Parker has set her like to think that s offers more hange the way ostly really

Every end is the start of a new beginning

Janet Akselrud

Six years in the past, my deceased boyfriend gave me a gift before he passed away. He had skin cancer and only lived for 7 months and 16 days after he was diagnosed. I can still recall how the white and bare hospital room seemed to scream at me. The small counter on the side was filled with paper cards with all the same message—get well soon. Although they were from his relatives, co-workers, and close friends that I was once familiar with, they never visited his hospital room throughout those 7 months. I left the gifts on the windowsill and counter, while I told him what happened throughout my day every time I visited him. His faint smile still creases his pale and cadaverous face when he sees me. However, he became uncooperative during our conversations, and was very bothered by my non-stop ombarding questions about his health and the moments he cherished. Something wasn't right during that time, so I decided to see him before I head to work on a Saturday morning. Once I arrived at his room, he laid a crimson envelope on his chest with his hands gently holding it. He turned his head around and spoke in a very soft tone along with attempting to reach his hand out. I quickly reached over to him while dropping all my bags on the floor. I knelt down and gently held his frail hands.

"I am happy that you have come a long way to get here with so many gifts."

"It's really nothing. I just want you to be happy at the last moments of your life." He immediately interrupted with the sweet talk and handed me the envelope.

"Doctors said that I won't be alive much longer."

"Wait... are you really going to...?" Tears started to roll down my face and I knew about this too.

"I don't want to have more money drawn out of your pocket just for me. I just want to die peacefully, and that is my final wish."

"I-I understand." I broke down and no longer wanted to argue with him during his painful moments.

"This envelope has everything I wanted to tell you before I will be off. We'll see each other in the next universe, okay?" At this point, I can only nod and gently hug him.

After a few moments, I tried to speak up and say that we will, but it was already too late.

The nurses dragged me out of the room as I tried to fight back. I didn't even say my farewells...

All the memories I had with him were playing repeatedly in my head, and all I wanted to say I was sorry.

After some time, I finally had the courage to open the envelope. There was a paper heart with the words, "I love you with all of my heart, and I wanted to give you this ring for our 7th anniversary." It dawned on me in that moment that I didn't deserve this ring and I didn't deserve him either because...

I cheated on you when you needed me the most, my love.

A Paper Heart by Amanda Feng I love you with all of my heart,
and I wanted to give you this ring for
our 7th anniversary

