

SS 2024

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# Candid



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# Explosion of the Nuclear Family

Lexi Reed

**T**he nature of humanity is connection. In the past we used to live in large communities, hunting together, gathering together, eating together, cooking together, growing up together, and raising kids together. As the saying goes: it takes a village. But where'd the village go?

The village has evaporated into thin air. The American Dream has created a vision of a house, a husband, a wife, and 2.5 kids with a perfectly preened yard, perfectly styled hair, and perfectly ironed clothes. Every day, the husband goes to work, the kids go to school, and the wife runs errands, cooks, and cleans to prepare for the homecoming of the family. The American Dream sounds a bit more than the White Man's Dream to me.

So, when did the village morph into a cookie-cutter house at the end of the cul-de-sac? Around the 13th century, the village turned into a big house or property with you, your parents, your siblings, their kids, and your kids. The village began to shrink and become more exclusive. Now, to be in the village, you have to be in the bloodline. Then, sometime in the 1900s, Europeans began to rid their homes of their parents, siblings, and extended family. The nuclear family was born.

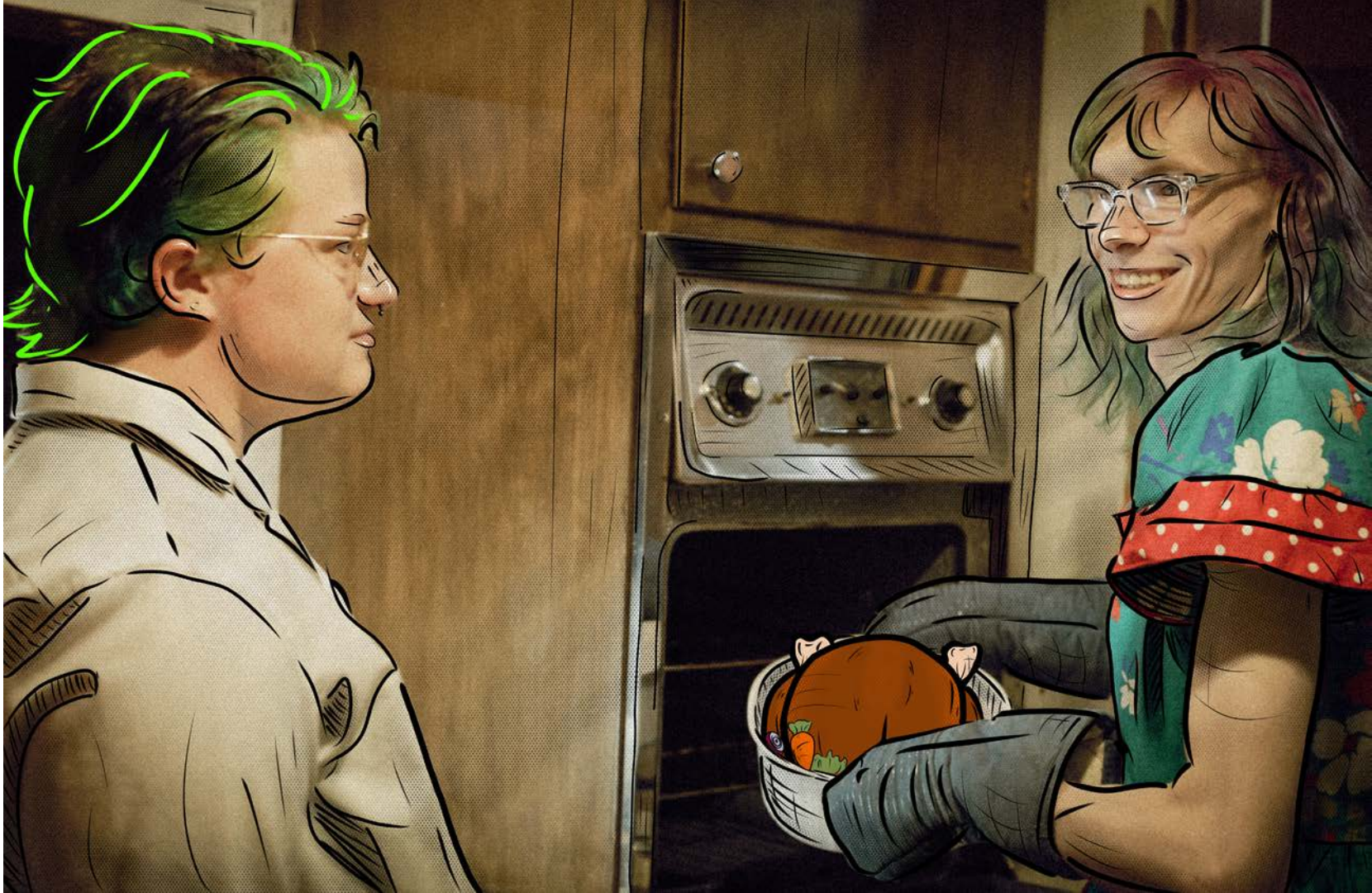
The loss of the multigenerational home is one popular in Europe while the "village" and multigenerational homes remained mainstream in most Asian and Middle Eastern countries. Thus, for Europeans, the nuclear family was born and worked its way into the Americas with the push of colonialism.

As Europeans continued with their expansion into the Americas and destruction of the Indigenous culture present prior, the interconnecting web of



Photographer: Drew Head • Illustrator: Kat Medina • Models: Henlie Cooper, Sierra Mason, Ren Osborne





Photographer: Drew Head • Illustrator: Kat Medina • Models: Ripley and Helianthus Davoe

communities slowly began to fizzle away. Away went our village with the bang of the nuclear bomb and in came a new era of family dynamics and culture.

When the village was replaced with the nuclear family, its popularity gripped American culture and changed the way we function. The yards were preened, the clothes were pressed, and nails were perfectly sculpted for mom, dad, and 2.5 kids. But what happened years after continues to shift the culture and dynamic of the world, especially American family dynamics.

When this family structure was popular, women's values, opinions, and ideas were put

**“The nuclear family captured in perfect photos 60 years ago has now shifted.”**

on the backburner. Women were not permitted to work, vote, or attend college for years. They were expected to clean their house, run errands, and raise their children. Not only were they expected to be the ideal homemaker, but there was widespread belief that women were not capable of anything more. This was the peak time for the American Nuclear Family and the American Dream.

Today, the nuclear family captured in perfect photos 60 years ago has now shifted. Sometimes it's two moms and 2.5 kids or two dads and 2.5 kids. Or maybe, it's just a mom and a kid or a dad and a kid. Today, families look a million different ways. Parents who are able bodied, disabled, queer, straight, single-parent, double-





Photographer: Drew Head • Illustrator: Kat Medina • Models: Natalie and Ava Tornatore



parent, or even families like mine where you've got about 100 parents and 500 Thanksgivings to go to every year. The standard nuclear family is no longer mainstream.

People are beginning to embrace all the ways families are different. More and more we can find kids' books representing multi-racial families, multi-abled families, multi-educated families, and more. As well as books, we can also see more representation of different family types in media, in songs, in our favorite celebrities, and our favorite TV-Shows. One popular show, *Good Trouble*, is a spin-off of *The Fosters*: a show that featured an inter-racial lesbian couple raising their children who were biological, adopted, fostered, and multi-racial. In *Good Trouble*, they feature a family unit where the mother is not present, the father is bisexual, and he is co-raising his daughter with his sister, who happens to be trans, and her husband.

Media imitates culture and culture imitates media. It wasn't until 2015 that gay marriage was legally and federally recognized in the United States. Immediately after the ruling, there was a massive surge in queer marriages around the country. Not even 10 years later we are seeing children's books, TV shows, movies, and more with queer representation. Thankfully, more and more these roles are filled by queer actors themselves leading to even more positive representation for youth in America and around the globe.

Since the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022 there have been countless anti-trans and anti-queer bills proposed and passed across the country. Despite the efforts of politicians to silence queer voices and the lives of the "other," love persists

and the LGBTQ+ community continues to advocate and exist loud and proud.

With this, we see representation of interracial, inter-ability, and interreligious relationships both in media and in life. As laws pass and the fight continues for inclusivity and recognition for many marginalized communities, people have become generally more accepting of others and themselves.

More and more our understanding of family units is broadening and becoming inclusive and accepting for the true variety and spectrum that fits our lives today. Some families have all parents working, some only one, some none, some with one kid, some with five, some religious, or not, some deaf or hearing or both. Endless are the opportunities that our global family dynamics hold.

Today, we are finally beginning to appreciate, admire, and represent the variety and beauty seen in so many different family dynamics across the globe.



# THIS IS FUN!

POEM BY ALEX MUNDY

This is fun!

Making videos for people to see  
Helping my parents to make money

Taking trips all over the world  
Being noticed in public by every boy and girl

This is fun!

Everyone knowing my name  
Overwhelmed with wealth and fame.

79 percent of parents post about their kids, ranging from a few times a year, to once or twice a week. This has been proven to be a great way for families to keep in touch with each other.

Skip Ad»

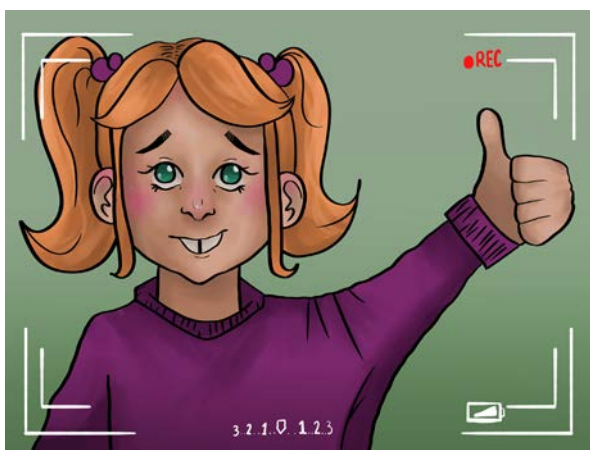
This is fun!

Seeing my face on a screen  
Frustrated when there are ads in between

Being the center of attention  
Never having to face rejection

This is fun!

Helping change my families lives  
Allowing my creativity to thrive



Illustrator: Holly Karges

The camera is always on the kids' faces. Some days they will wake up with the camera, and won't have the cameras off until they go to bed. It works for some people, but for others, it has a really bad impact on their mental health, not having privacy for an entire day.

Skip Ad»



So much fun...

Having the camera on me all day  
Turning a colorful world into a field of gray.

Having my entire life filmed for the world to see  
Seeing that I have never had an ounce of privacy

So much fun...

Making ads for companies I don't even know  
My entire life becomes a massive shit show

This is fun!

So much fun...

Right?



By being the main focus of the videos, children subsequently become the faces of their family's own brand, and their likeness is promoted and distributed in such a way that turns-



Being exploited with all of my time-  
Putting in so much work, and not making a dime

This is not fun.

I'm not having fun.

Let me be free.

Please.



# Entangled



**by Zach Winger**

Models, in order: Deanna Hardy, Kaleb Josey, Lyrika Burman, Marvin Acosta, Madeline Cline





















# THE MIDNIGHT ZONE

Maxwell Wheeler



The night can be surreal if you're not careful. The naps we succumb to when the sun is falling comes without warning. Windows with no curtains feel like black holes that we try not to go near. The chance of seeing someone you know is slim, but still a worry because this isn't who you are, or at least not who you want to be known as. It's not all fear though; ethereal moments start breathing when low, little lights fill in the colors of the room. The difference between our day and night routines is that people know who we are during the day, so the night is almost who we're not. Jokes about the obnoxiously happy friend who becomes a shell of a person when they're alone perfectly illustrates the point of who we are versus who we're not while somehow managing to fall under both categories. Try as we may to say that we don't have strange traits and interests, that light switch flips and it's who we are until waking up again.

Day provides light that shines from one central light source above us, as if all we do is take in information from the environment. When night comes, it's minor light fixtures that illuminate bedrooms, living rooms, and even kitchens. When the importance of others is less concerning, we feel comfortable enough to let ourselves be expressed through tiny deposits all over the place. Expression is important because without it, we bottle up and forget who we

are. Interests need to be nurtured by emptying that bottle towards passions and people we care about. The question is why we're only ourselves at night if expression is so important? As much as we would like to ignore the opinion of others for what makes us happy, it still lingers on our mind. Instead of trying to justify ourselves, we decide to hide and carry on with who we are the best that we can.

We keep ourselves hidden to continue who we are because it's what people can find real passion in. When seeing—or hearing—the word fun, there's often multiple people involved in the thought. Despite this, the current generations are growing more antisocial than ever. People still engage with activities associated with partying such as drinking, getting high, playing games, but in smaller groups and then it becomes socially acceptable. Another anomaly is how our society is slowly becoming more progressive and inclusive in values. However, when sexual desire is talked about, the room is silent as everyone makes their exit. A local lesbian couple spoke about how they always hear people encouraging their sexual orientation and to be proud of how they feel, but they see straight couples and individuals criticizing other straights. The topic is interesting since it's just one more part of who





Illustrator: Kamryn Johnson

we are at night. It's who we tell people we're not because it's embarrassing even though we think about it more than once a blue moon. We feel small for hiding our interests and judgment festers as we think of people who talk about how much they enjoy sex and other secret activities.

The midnight zone is less of a time and more of a place. It's where all of us exist when too much time has passed and isolation fills the air, when the smaller lights and the hidden parts of personalities are permitted temporary existence. An underground, liminal space is present whether alone or with others

*"IT'S WHERE ALL OF US EXIST WHEN TOO MUCH TIME HAS PASSED AND ISOLATION FILLS THE AIR, WHEN THE SMALLER LIGHTS AND THE HIDDEN PARTS OF PERSONALITIES ARE PERMITTED TEMPORARY EXISTENCE."*

because of the dark silence surrounding us. A lonely atmosphere is good at making people feel like they're not being watched and are free to do whatever they want without judgment. This is a problem because, if no one is looking, there's nothing to be weary of and we stop regulating ourselves.

Alcoholics start as people enhancing the amount of fun they're having with others, but soon make alcohol an essential pick-up on the drive home. It becomes a way to not feel so bad when everyone else is busy. It's the same reason that sex is still a controversial topic. For many, it's not just an activity or

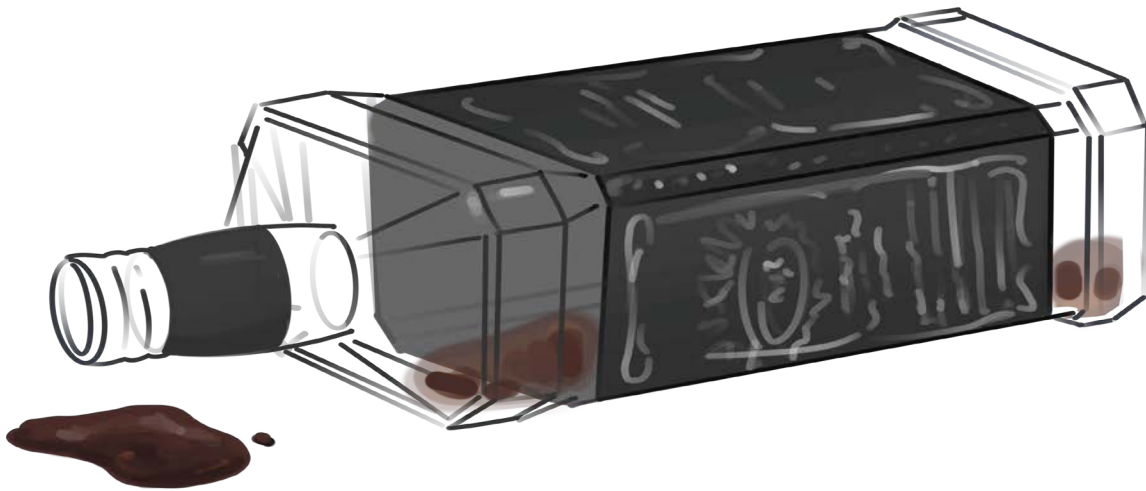


sensation people enjoy, but a feeling that some rely on for stress-relief. Men, especially, will hold onto this so they can keep functioning at others expense. Most women have stories about men taking advantage of them and not even realizing the fact of it. This is a result of not teaching young women what abuse actually looks like for fear of implanting bad thoughts in their head despite the former option leaving them defenseless.

The darker hours act as a liminal space that we lock ourselves in to feel safe. Feeling safe isn't bad, but as we use energy towards work, school, communication, social media, we're drained by the end of the day. Being so drained makes it easy to get annoyed or not be motivated in the interests we hide in shadows and TV-lit bedrooms. This makes strong evidence for why the current

generation feels so awful all the time—we hide who are out of shame and embarrassment from what others think but when we finally get the time to exercise our personality, we feel the most tired.

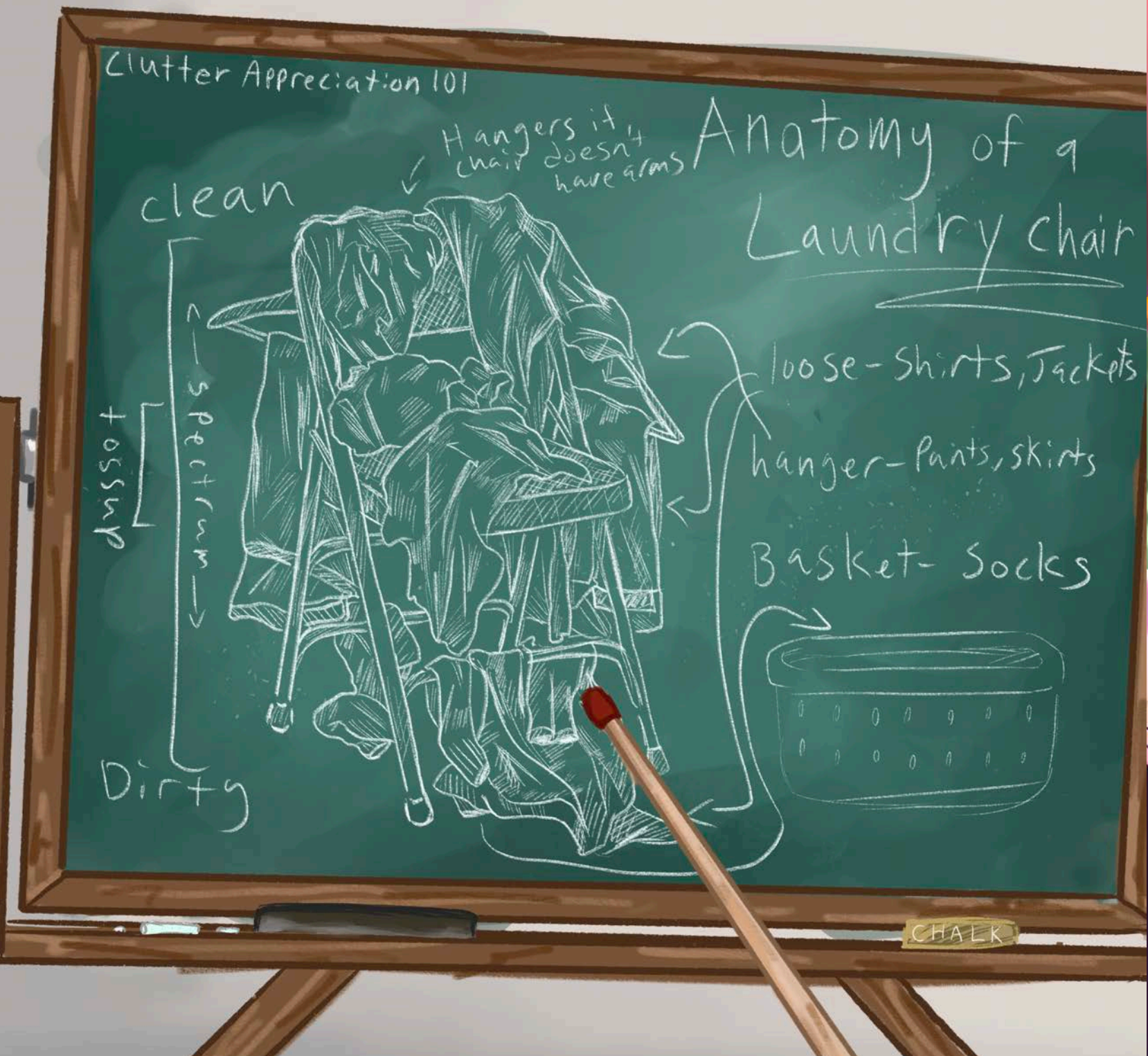
Day after day of rejecting who we are makes the situation snowball until we're only shells. The comfortable nighttime should be used as a tool—a way to catch up on who we are—but not a way of life. When it has been made into a lifestyle, we start treating it the same as alcohol and become so far gone that extensive resources need to be used to reach a level state again. Use the midnight zone to your advantage, but don't live there. It would be scary to run out of gas at night on a road surrounded by forest, so why would you build a home there?









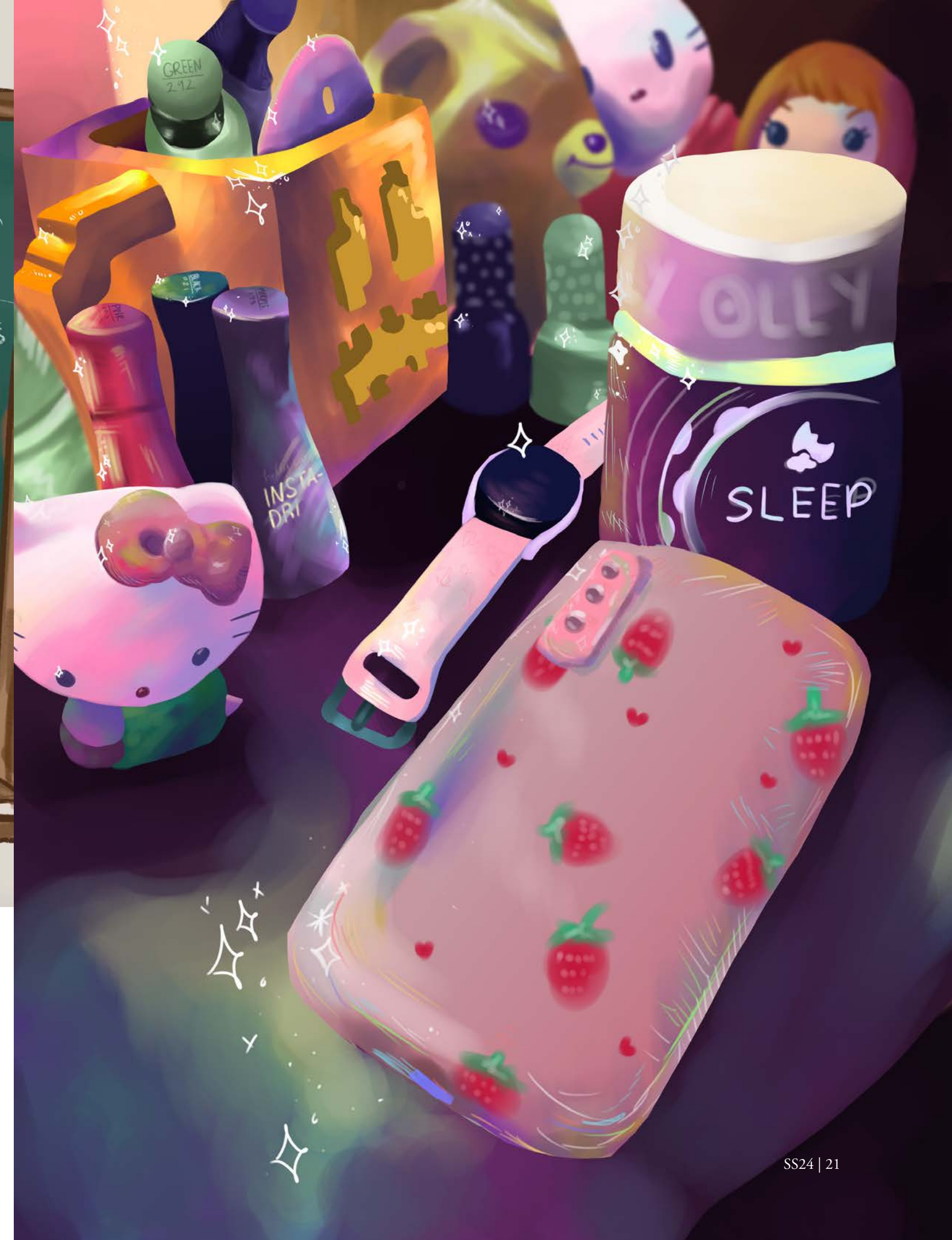


# CLUTTERED

An Illustration Editorial

Artists in Order: Clem  
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Allen, Katherine Medina















# A Love Letter to Snail Mail

**Clem Blair**

Subject: A Love Letter To Snail Mail  
From: imtoosentimental@hotmail.com

**T**he letter is dying. In an age dominated by technology, email, text, call, and direct messaging have become the norm. The epistolary form is mostly irrelevant, it's old fashioned and inconvenient.

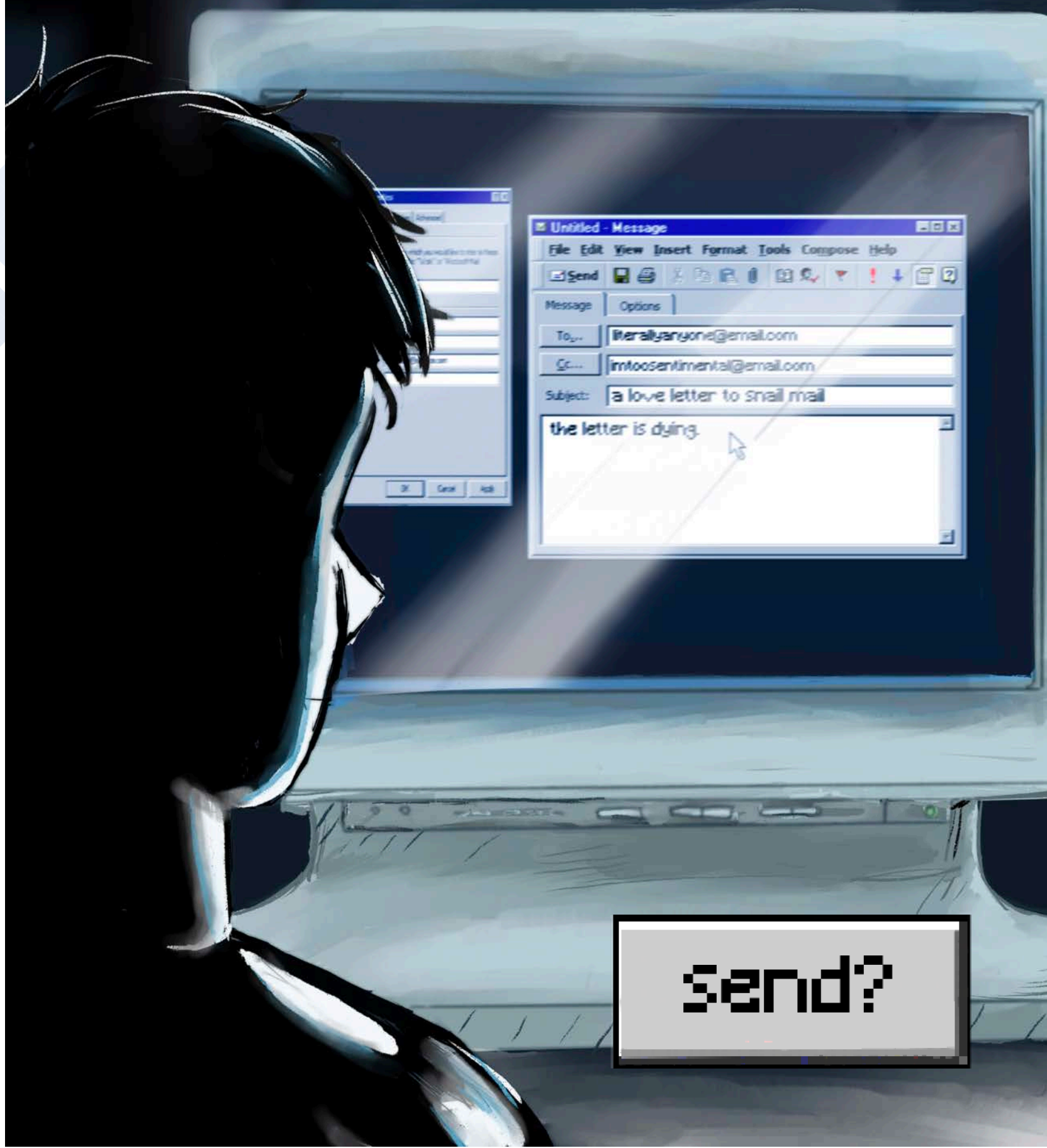


Illustrator: Clem Blair

Sending letters is saved for big occasions: weddings, funerals, birthdays if you're lucky. Getting a letter was reserved for getting ten dollars from a distant aunt on your tenth birthday or being forced to have a pen pal in school. However, humans are sentimental beings by nature and as such are compelled to divulge our deeper, more tender feelings. Traditionally, this has been done through ballads, sonnets, aubades for parting couples, and love letters.

The sentiment of sending your loved ones words expressing your emotions hasn't died as a concept, it's just evolved to fit the evolution of communication. People send late night paragraphs detailing their intimate shower thoughts, good morning and good night texts to mark the beginning and end of the day with a gesture of thoughtfulness. On one hand, it is nice to have such frequent expressions of love, but it's a double-edged sword. With the ease of text comes a need for an immediate reply. Too often do people find themselves checking their phones, obsessing over whether they have been left on delivered for too long. Should we really feel entitled to a quick response, or by extension





send?

their time? Should we absolutely have to know when someone has received a message? When you have people's almost immediate attention, you are subjected to the same expectation. Having this much access to others has created a universal pressure to respond. This coupled with every-day stressors creates even more pressure surrounding interacting with people. That email your professor sent you weighs heavily in your inbox, while that meme your friend sent you seems more like a chore to answer. With quick back and forth texts, messaging becomes routine, and somewhere along the way it can start to feel like an obligation. Instead of responding to that good morning text because you want to, it's because you have to. You're not sending that relatable post because you think it's something your friend from middle school would like to see, it's because leaving a conversation finished means you don't want to talk anymore.

Snail mail isn't convenient, or even very efficient. Convenience and efficiency are not always and should not be the main justification behind a choice of medium. Admittedly, that sounds counterproductive. Communication should be fast and easy...most of the time. With letters, there is an extra amount of effort and thought needed—choosing stationary, perfecting your handwriting, even how you seal the envelope. There is a craft in writing letters. The messiest scrawl on a piece of scrap paper still means something, whatever is written on it was important enough to be worth the effort. A

person's handwriting is expressive, inconsistent. You can tell if they were nervous by how one letter seems shakier than others. The words run together because they were too excited to completely pick up their pencil. It would be easy to just let these thoughts drift away or be said face to face, but many are drawn to this physical gesture—or at least they were. Isn't there something to be said about the effort and tenacity needed to arduously rewrite words you can't just delete with one button? The finicky and tedious nature of making sure lines are straight and your writing doesn't curve off the edge?

In mailing a letter, you're inviting a greater chance of uncertainty. Of course, your letter could go unread, but it could also get lost in the post, maybe someone threw it away by accident. This uncertainty amplifies the significance and

***Letter writing is the only device for combining solitude with good company*** the risk of letters. You are physically sending a piece of yourself into the world, letting your emotions take tangible form when you send a letter. The preservation

***- Lord Byron*** of letters has been witnessed throughout history. Pining, eloquent love letters written by women in convents to each other have been studied in classes in medieval literature, but even now people still hang up Christmas cards and tack up cheesy doodles and valentines to cork boards. When someone opens a letter and can smell your perfume, can see the

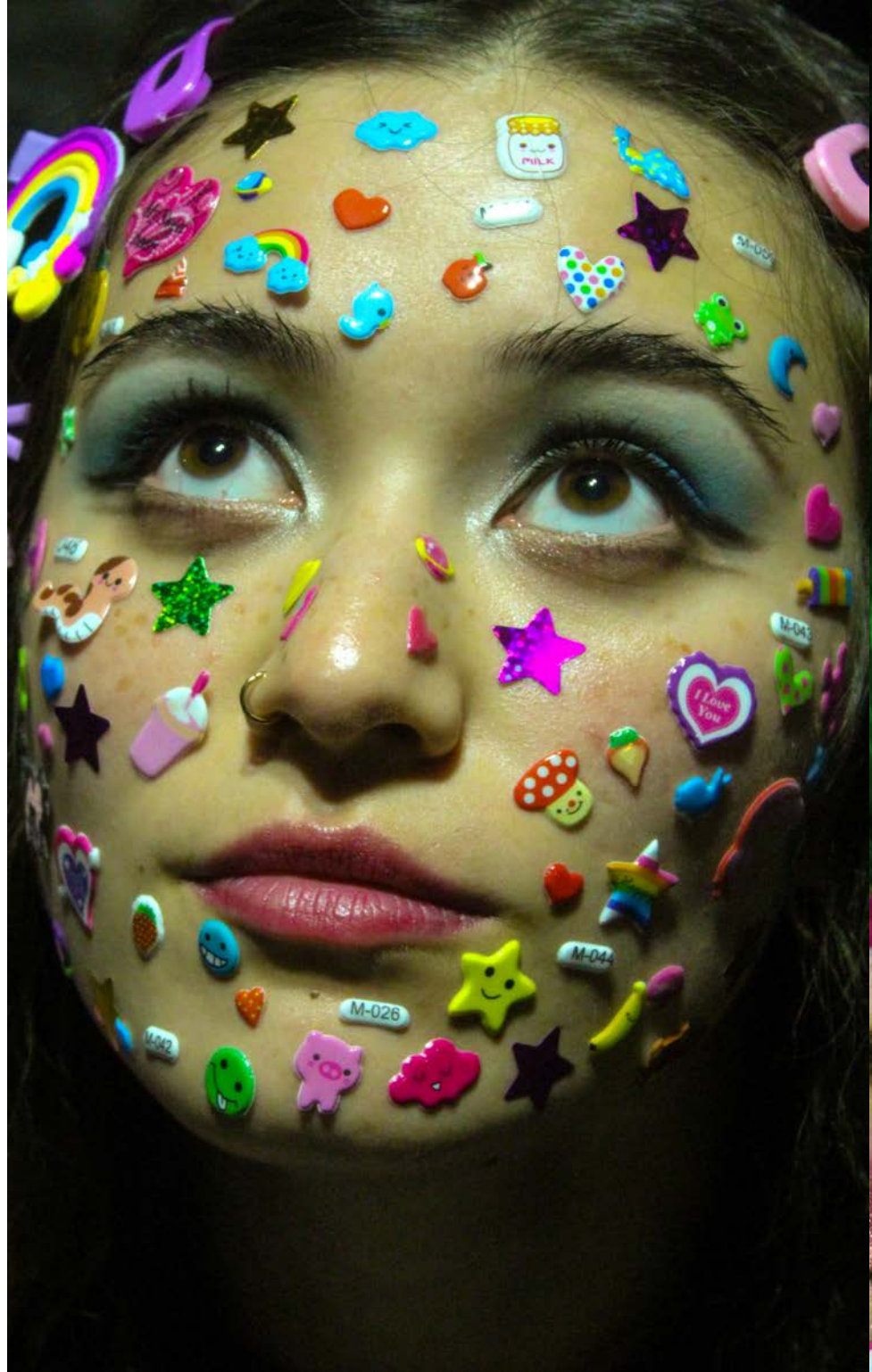




changes and shifts in your handwriting. They can tell that you took time and thought, you are leaving an impression on them—one so much more significant than twelve-point arial on iMessage. By sending a letter, you are giving the recipient a real, physical representation of your feelings for them.

That said, texting and online messaging can be and often is genuine. Convenience and having an immediate avenue for response is important and we shouldn't "go back to how things used to be". It is nice being able to casually chat with friends or call your parents every night when you move out. Sometimes you need to send a midnight email to a professor due to a deadline misunderstanding, or your best friend has to hear about what you heard someone say at that party. Keep emailing, keep texting, calling, facetimeing, etc. Don't drop technology and fast communication, but maybe next time when you're looking at birthday cards or valentines, try your hand at writing a letter. A bespoke note instead of a signed Hallmark card might make a spark, and that spark may start a fire.





# The Miniature Puppeteer

## Connecting with your Inner Child

An Editorial By: Ripley Davoe

Models: Sam Ranae, Gabby Sutton





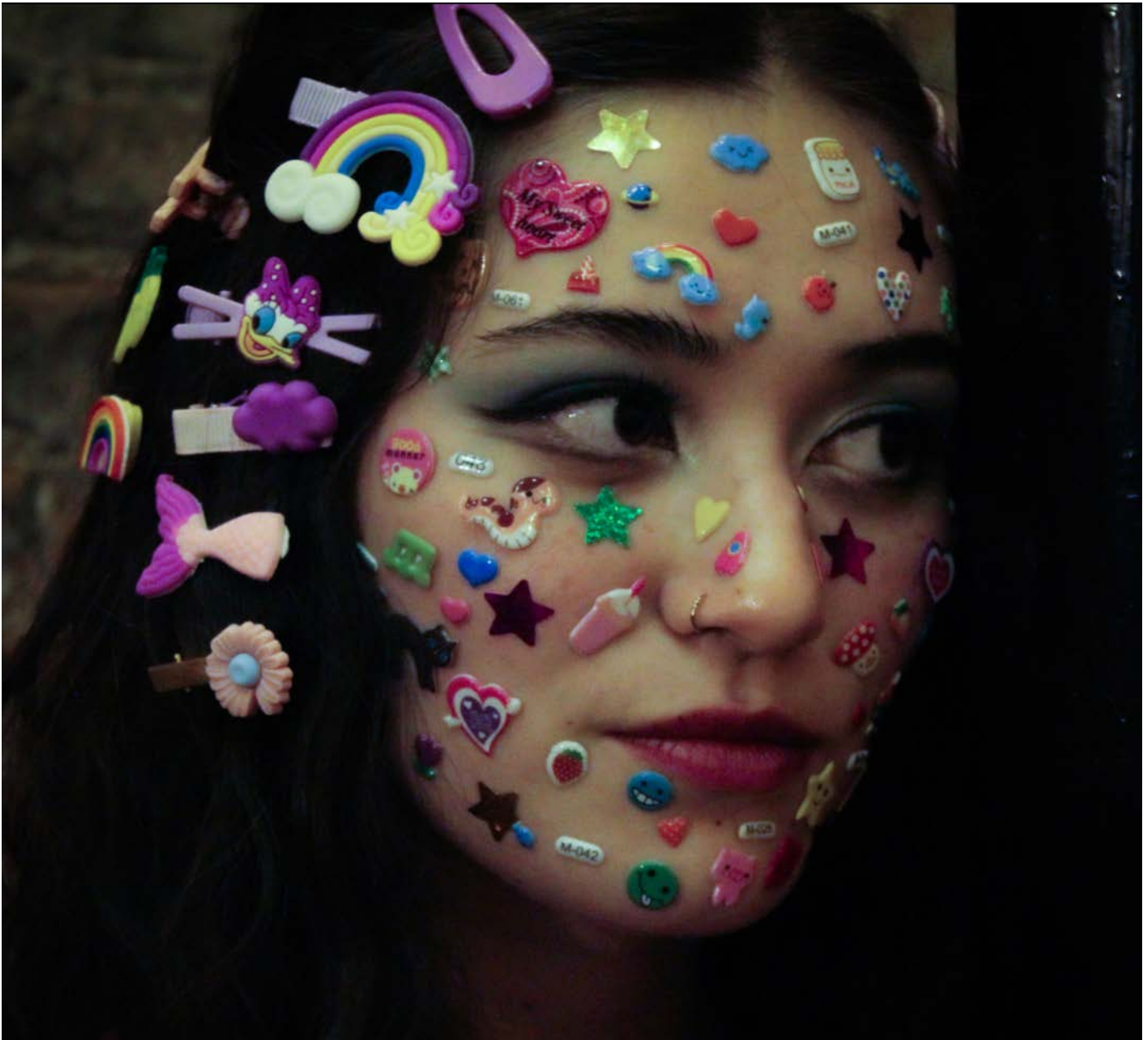




















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**can·did**

*/ˈkandəd/* · adjective

**Truthful and straightforward; frank.**

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This magazine is an outlet for students to express their ideas, thoughts, and opinions in creative ways.