

February 2024

Issue 1

Celtic Tablet

DJHS Magazine

NATIONAL NOVEL
WRITING MONTH
50k words. One month.

IN THE NEWS: Gypsy
Rose Blanchard

SPORTS: Nick Sabin
Retirement

MUSIC: The
Weeknd

ANAM: Literary
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CELTIC TABLET

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Letter from the *Advisor*

On behalf of the Writing for Publication I class at Dublin Jerome High School, I would like to welcome you to the first edition of The Celtic Tablet. We are inspired by this new format for a Dublin Jerome publication and are happy you found us. It is our intention to make this digital magazine an amalgamation of the Celtic Courier, which was the DJHS print magazine, and the Anam, which is the DJHS literary magazine. This digital magazine was born out of conversations with the Writing for Publication class. Students expressed a desire for a vibrant, interactive, online publication that brought together the best of Jerome students' literary works as well as their journalistic pursuits. We hope you enjoy this first edition and look forward to giving you a new edition every month this spring.



Our February 2024 edition features Noah Huckaby's story, highlighting our 1st semester Creative Writing class and their involvement in NaNoWriMo—National Novel Writing Month—which takes place every November for the duration of the calendar month. Engagement in this rigorous challenge was based on student choice. The entire class wanted to do it, so I said “yes” and took part with them. I wrote every day alongside my students for an entire month, and it was many things: a bonding experience, an exercise in mental grit, a creative outlet, and overall, a whole lot of fun. I am proud of the students' collective accomplishment and invite you to read Noah's feature piece that describes the challenge and individual student accounts in more detail.

Student curiosity and choice drive our stories. At the onset of January, when our class started meeting for the second semester, the Internet was flooded with news of Gypsy Rose Blanchard's release from prison. Three of our writers were enthralled with the Gypsy Rose story, albeit in various ways. Alyssa Andreson reports on Gypsy Rose Blanchard in an attempt to separate fact from fiction, gauge student awareness of the story, and learn more about Munchausen syndrome by proxy. Shirley Gui delves into the human psyche to explore the media's fascination with the tragedy of others, critique how Hollywood exploits the trauma of victims for entertainment and profit, and highlight the ethical dilemma this poses to the casual media consumer. Bryleigh McQuillen creates a fictionalized Gypsy Rose tale by starting with the bare bones of the Gypsy Rose story and knitting these details together with several fairy tale motifs to create a dark fairy tale that is a riff on a modern day Rapunzel story. And with that, our Gypsy Rose trilogy is complete.

Our sports reporters, Lucie Glatz and Meadow Ahijevych tackle the news of Nick Saban's retirement as the University of Alabama's head football coach, learning in the process that Saban is leaving a legacy on the field as well as off, and leaving us with the anticipation of who will step in as the Crimson Tide's new head coach.

Music reporter, Bella Murphy, has piqued our interest in The Weeknd's cryptic message to Instagram followers pertaining to a possible new album, maybe coming soon. We don't know, but Bella gives us some insight into the artistic talent and choices of this music icon.

Finally, our literary team has rounded out this issue with poetry selections from Keira Ordonio, Noah Huckaby, Heidi Herman and Alyssa Andresen, and a fiction selection from Caroline Simpson. These selections appear in the Anam (celtic word for "soul") section of our magazine.

We hope you enjoy reading this first edition as much as we enjoyed making it.

-Mrs. Trisler

NaNoWriMo

A 100,000 word story

By: Noah Huckaby

The Creative Writing Class has done something extraordinary.

They competed in the National Novel Writing Month and collectively wrote over 120,000 words. The National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo for short, is a competition where aspiring writers try and write a fifty thousand-word manuscript in November. It is a massive undertaking and these students are extraordinarily gifted writers. The young authors who participated in NaNoWriMo are Keira Ordonio, Alyssa Andresen, Noah Huckaby, Olivia Hatcher, Elizabeth Callahan, Amira Fakir, Heidi Herman, Nate Sarvis, Aleah Soprano, Sophia Chawdry, and Caroline Simpson. When asked about her inspiration, Andresen stated, “My inspiration to join NaNoWriMo was because of the Creative Writing class and my pre-existing love of writing. I had vaguely heard of the challenge before, but it wasn’t until that class that I had done it.



Some of the authors in the 2023 Creative Writing Class- Taken by Caroline Simpson

My inspiration for my piece came from an idea that I had from when I was in elementary school that I never finished, and that gave me the motivation and interest to finally finish it.” Andresen is a junior at Jerome who also participates in theatre, having a part in the most recent production, Dracula. When we asked her what her biggest challenge was during the month she said, “The biggest challenge I faced during NaNoWriMo was either writer’s block, or how to make sure

that the story wasn't too long, but not cut short. I overcame this by taking days off to just read over what I had written all together so that I could see where my brain went with ideas. My other challenge was very difficult to accomplish because I didn't want things to end abruptly. I made my way through that by trying to hone in on a specific part of the story ending, rather than the whole overall idea in a way; and that made it end in a less abrupt or weird way."

Our team interviewed another aspiring author who participated in NaNoWriMo, Keira Ordonio. Ordonio is a senior who not only writes, but also aced the AP Drawing exam, and has competed in and won multiple art competitions. We asked her what the benefits were of participating in NaNoWriMo and she said,

"I think a huge benefit of participating in NaNoWriMo is the way it forces you to come up with an idea and stick with it. There's not a lot of time and a large word count to meet, so it's not advisable to switch your story mid-month. So for me, it helped me finish

an idea instead of starting it and then letting it float around never to be finished."

When asked how she stayed motivated during NaNoWriMo she said,

"When it comes to staying motivated, it helps me to have a plan. I started by writing whatever came to mind, but when I started losing myself in that, I figured out how I'd end the story and what needed to happen to get there." The team also interviewed a past NaNoWriMo champion, Jacob Stilby who is an author and roboticist. When asked what advice he had for authors starting the challenge "Pace yourself. Make sure you set aside time each day to work on it. If you've never written something this big before, it helps to do some pre-work (plotting, outlining, world-building, etc.)"

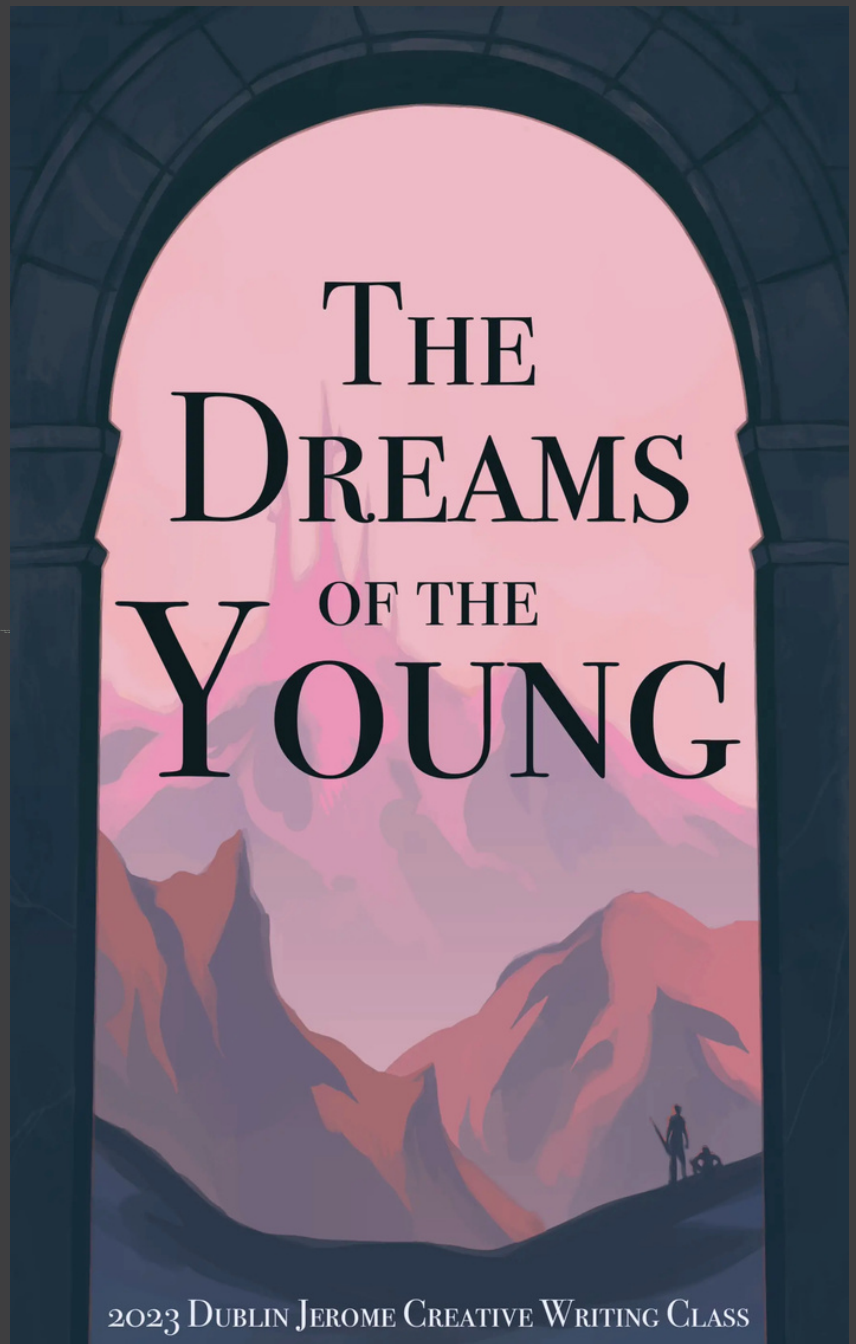
We also asked how he balanced NaNoWriMo with his other commitments. He stated,

"Carefully. I do my best, and know that some years it means I won't have the time to finish with a 'winning' word count. But, I decided a long time ago that any word count over 0 is progress."

NaNoWriMo is clearly a great undertaking and requires the hardest of wills. Most would quail under such weight as fifty thousand words, but not the students of Mrs. Trisler's Creative Writing Class. They pressed forward with perseverance and a desire to do what was difficult; thereby, the class embodies the spirit of Dublin Jerome.

The collected works were compiled into an anthology titled The Dreams of the Young.

If you are interested in purchasing a physical copy please reach out to Noah Huckaby at noahhuckaby07@gmail.com or read for free online just scan the QR code.



The Cover of the anthology created by
Keira Ordonio

DO YOU KNOW THE STORY OF Gypsy Rose?

Gypsy Rose. If you don't know who she is or her story, I bet you've still heard her name in the media. Right now Gypsy Rose is the new "spotlight" true crime story, being told through docuseries, and documentaries.

Although unlike the name Gypsy Rose itself, you may not have heard of a crucial term that describes her situation, Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy. This term is now renamed to Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another, because it is more accurately a behavioral pattern than an underlying psychiatric syndrome. FDIA is a form of abuse where the caretaker of a child fabricates illnesses that the child has in order to get benefits, awards, procedures, or shelter them in an toxic/illegal way. This sadly was used against Gypsy Rose by her mother Claudine (Dee Dee) Blanchard since she was a baby.

Throughout the process of Rose growing up, her mother had convinced doctors that Gypsy had a plethora of health symptoms leading to diagnosis of Leukemia, Sleep Apnea, Muscular Dystrophy, seizures, asthma, hearing problems, and visual impairments. She even went so far as to tell the hospital she needed a feeding tube, wheelchair, a breathing machine, procedures done on her eyes, and the removal of her salivary glands that caused her teeth to rot and be pulled. The horror continued on with many other medical surgeries and procedures that were harming Gypsy since she didn't need any of them.



Photo credits: usnewsdaily, January 6, 2024

In 2008, Habitat for Humanity built Gypsy Rose and her mother's infamous pink house based on the false story Dee Dee claimed of being "victims of Hurricane Katrina," also spinning the story to reflect that, "all of Gypsy's medical history was destroyed" in the hurricane. In Missouri her lies and manipulation continued by claiming Gypsy was years younger than she was, and continuing the masquerade to her new neighbors that she was taking care of a "sick and dying child." It was in Missouri that Gypsy started exploring the Internet and went on a Christian dating site, meeting Nicholas Godejohn. They chatted online for two years before ever meeting in person; sometimes pretending to be different or "darker" personalities known as Ruby and Victor; with Gypsy later stating, "Victor was the evil half of him, and that he had another personality that planned to and liked killing." As Gypsy began to stray from obedience to her mother, Dee Dee became violent, chaining and hurting her so that she would never disobey or leave.

As this treatment continued, Nicholas and Gypsy began to plan out the murder of Dee Dee; Nicholas in hopes of living out a life with Gypsy, and Gypsy hoping for an escape from her mother and her abuse. Rose had chatted to Godejohn to bring a knife to their home while her mother was sleeping, and as he murdered her mother, she stayed in the bathroom, hands covering her ears. Later in interviews Gypsy indicated that in the moment she didn't want to kill her mother, and heard her screaming out to her as he did it. After the murder, the two made their way to Wisconsin by bus to Godejohn's family home, where they were then found and arrested. In court, Gypsy eventually confessed to planning out the murder of her mother with Nicholas; she would be sentenced to jail for second degree murder for ten years, and Godejohn would be sentenced to life in prison.

In prison, it was revealed to Gypsy that she was healthy all along, and that she never had any of the health concerns that her mother claimed. In prison she said that she felt freer than she ever had, and was released two years early on parole.

Through different articles, there are many polarizing opinions on her case, and through some interviews I carried out, I found the same thing. First I interviewed Brendan Hock, who was very skeptical that Gypsy was continuing a behavior pattern that used her story for fame. I first asked, "Do you know the story of Gypsy Rose?"

"I've seen her on Tik Tok, she's the girl who just got out of prison." I began to explain the case, but he still was skeptical, "If she went through those things, I feel that choosing to post on Tik Tok and get followers seems more like trying to get "fame" for her case. I feel that either way she had a large part in the murder of her mother and should have to own up to that the same as her boyfriend."

Alternatively, I then interviewed with a Psychology Major, Macy, who had a completely different take, saying, "I first discovered Gypsy through "The Act" and wanted to look more into her case. I feel horrible for Gypsy and think that she never got the medical help that she needed after going through a trauma such as that; and that even more than prison and being let out on parole now, she should be going to a mental hospital to help her heal, since she still played a part in this situation." She continued by saying "I do question the responsibility the medical professionals should share in the continued abuse Gypsy endured. I found it shocking that Dee Dee was able to manipulate so many into believing that her daughter suffered so many medical illnesses."

Gypsy Rose states to have taken to social media in the hopes of raising awareness to the abuse of FDIA; sharing an Instagram post on December 29, 2023 "First selfie of freedom!" Hopefully, through every polarizing opinion, she does get the help she needs, and is able to spread awareness and help others in bad situations through hearing her story.

Gypsy Rose Blanchard and the Dystopian Reality of True Crime

by Shirley Gui

TRUE CRIME FASCINATES US.

How can such terrible things happen?
What drives someone to do something so uniquely horrific? It's mystifying. We want to pick apart the minds of the people who choose to do the irreversible. What's the difference between them and us, anyway? We're all human. The media knows all too well how ravenous we are for true crime; felonies become headlines, and headlines become dollars; everyone is just scrambling to find out how and why. This is precisely why true crime, as we know it, is unethical. Enter the freshest victim of the true crime genre: Gypsy Rose Blanchard.

Gypsy Rose was released from prison on December 28, 2023 for second-degree murder of her mother, Claudine "Dee Dee" Blanchard on June 9, 2015. Her boyfriend at the time, Nicholas Godejohn, stabbed Gypsy's mother to death while Gypsy hid in the bathroom and covered her ears. Gypsy had been a victim of her mother's Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another (FDIA) her entire life and believed that to escape her mother, she had to kill her. Blanchard had claimed for Gypsy's entire life that Gypsy suffered from numerous serious health problems such as

epilepsy, hearing and vision impairments, seizures, and more. Blanchard had forced Gypsy to use a wheelchair and feeding tube and had her undergo multiple unnecessary procedures. The diagnostic criteria for FDIA includes, according to the National Library of Medicine:

A. Psychological and physical signs and symptoms, or induction lesion or disease on other are feigned in association with identified fraud

B. Individual presents the other (victim) as ill, impaired or injured

Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another, previously known as Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy (MSbP), is classified as both a mental illness and a form of child abuse. Gypsy was in her mother's care for 23 years.

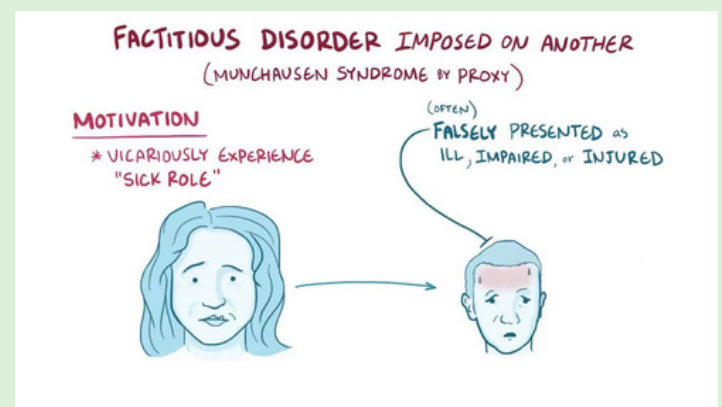


Illustration of FDIA. Osmosis, CC BY-SA 4.0.

It's appalling that a mother would do that to her own child. You wouldn't do that to your own child, surely. But Gypsy's mother did, and that fact is, to the avid true crime consumer, as repulsive as it is intriguing. The "true" part of true crime is as much the appeal as it is the problem. Gypsy's story quickly became the hottest topic for documentaries, docuseries, and news outlets. Profit. Examples include HBO's *Mommy Dead and Dearest* (2017); Discovery Plus' *Gypsy's Revenge* (2018); Lifetime's *Love You to Death* (2018); Hulu's *The Act* (2019); all 24 million results when "gypsy rose blanchard story" is typed into the Google search bar; and of course, Gypsy's own collaboration with Lifetime: *The Prison Confessions of Gypsy Rose Blanchard* (2024). True crime media created with the consent and support of the victim or victim's loved ones is not the problem, but this is often not the case. *Mommy Dead and Dearest*, *Gypsy's Revenge*, and *The Prison Confessions of Gypsy Rose Blanchard* directly involve Gypsy herself, whereas *Love You to Death* and *The Act* cast actors for everyone involved with Gypsy's story. Imagine how strange that would be, watching other people act out the terrible life you lived, taking artistic liberties on your reality. It's not real for them, though. They're filming a scene; they get to hit pause and step out. You didn't. You were lied to for twenty

years by the one person who should have loved you the most. Now, imagine viewers flocking to those works, applauding the actors and writers for the intense emotions that they conveyed. Joey King was nominated for both a Primetime Emmy and a Golden Globe award for her role as Gypsy in *The Act*.

So, the problem with true crime. What is it, really? Are these adaptations and inspired works not just a means of telling someone's story to the world, a means of giving the victim a voice? Not exactly. Gypsy Rose Blanchard is far from the first person to be shoved under the true crime spotlight. Another popular piece of true crime media is *Dahmer - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*, a Netflix original that retells the story of infamous serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. The *Dahmer* series focuses on the perpetrator, whereas Gypsy is a victim of her mother's abuse. Still, adaptations of both their stories share similar ethical issues: overlooking the victims. At first, it may seem contradictory to say that Gypsy-inspired works, typically with Gypsy as the main focus, overlook her. And on a surface level, yes, these works bring a lot of attention to her— just not the right kind. The attention brought to Gypsy is better described as "fascination." People treat Gypsy's story like just that: a story. Horrible, morbid,

awful, unfortunate— but little more than a conversation topic, or a headline for easy clicks: “Influencer Gypsy Rose could make millions after mom murder,” “We Just Can’t Quit Gypsy Rose,” “Gypsy Rose Blanchard movie: Why America is so obsessed with the girl who helped murder her mom,” and more. America is “addicted,” “obsessed,” and “infatuated” with her. Do not forget that Gypsy Rose Blanchard is a real person, too, and that she is living under the same sky as every other person on the planet.

On the other hand, *Dahmer - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story* disregards the victims in a way that is much more frequent in the true crime genre. The victims’ families were not consulted about their likenesses being used in the show, and some weren’t even aware the series was happening at all. Some family members felt incredibly disrespected by the creators of the series; Errol Lindsey’s family in particular was rightfully outraged. The series focuses more on Dahmer than it does on the victims, which is one of the biggest mistakes of the true crime genre. Why do we know the names Jeffrey Dahmer and Ted Bundy, but not Errol Lindsey or Karen Sparks? There are books and movies and documentaries all about Dahmer, and very little centered around the people he dismembered,

cannibalized, and worse. These were people, real people, with families and friends and coworkers. Dahmer raped dead bodies; *Dahmer - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story* received a Golden Globe Award, People’s Choice Award, NAACP Image Award, British Academy Television Award, Primetime Emmy Award, Critic’s Choice Television Award, and Satellite Award.

True crime sells, at the expense of the victims. It’s the modern-day freakshow. It’s a billion-dollar business.

The sensationalization of Gypsy Rose Blanchard and Jeffrey Dahmer are only two examples. Search up “best true crime to watch” and be bombarded with hundreds of millions of results. Every victim had parents, possibly siblings, coworkers, friends, teachers, lovers, dreams, hopes. Your best friend is one person. A victim is one person. The typical “true crime fan” gets the dystopian privilege of watching the story unfold from the comfort of their own home, reassured by the knowledge that they are more fortunate than the victim. If you are really, truly that passionate about justice for these victims, go into forensic science. Let Gypsy live her life and let her tell her own story, as everyone deserves to.

Confinement

By: Bryleigh McQuillen

*R*apunzel was told that she had been diagnosed with many illnesses, so her life wasn't easy.

At eight years old she had been diagnosed with leukemia and muscular dystrophy, so Rapunzel started using a wheelchair and a feeding tube. Her Mother Gothel kept her in a tower seventy-three feet in the air and told her never to leave home.

Her mother was her only companion ever since her father left. Gothel always told Rapunzel that he abandoned them, but Rapunzel noticed that she and her mother were the ones who left. It was right after the day Mother Gothel told Rapunzel's father she had a chromosomal disorder that led Rapunzel to many illnesses. Everyone started asking questions about her condition, and then Mother Gothel took Rapunzel away to the tower. Her mother would bring in people from the outside world who would do surgeries on her to improve her health. Years passed and Rapunzel's precessant conditions still never changed.

Doctors would come to the tower day after day, and Gothel would always tell Rapunzel the same thing:

"There have been no changes. We must stick to the same medical care, we both know how dangerous this game is."

Rapunzel thought the medical care her mother gave her was normal, but Mother Gothel would hire doctors from all around the globe to arrive at the tower and do unnecessary procedures.

One day when Rapunzel was ten, Mother Gothel asked Rapunzel to wheel over to the kitchen, to get some spices for a new soup that was supposed to make Rapunzel feel better. Rapunzel's wheelchair creaked and squeaked whenever she rode it, and it was rusting from poor care. Rapunzel looked for the spice but couldn't find it. She eventually saw it on the highest cabinet and tried reaching for it. It was no use, she was sitting down in her rusted wheelchair.

Rapunzel reached further, suddenly feeling taller. She kept climbing higher and higher, then grabbed the spice on the highest shelf. Rapunzel looked around and saw that she wasn't in her wheelchair anymore, she was standing up. Rapunzel scratched her head in confusion as she remembered why Mother Gothel asked her to get the spice. To make her *feel* better. Rapunzel then realized how she never in her life felt extremely sick.

She was fine right now. She was over the moon with this discovery.

Rapunzel began to test out a few more things and found she could eat properly too. Then Rapunzel realized that whenever she underwent surgery, only her mother told her the results. Not once did she hear the surgeon's opinion. Rapunzel had read in her textbooks that the cancer she had was supposed to make her hair fall off, but Mother Gothel cut her hair every month to keep it from growing. Rapunzel could see just fine, and yet she had to overcome hours of surgery. She had no trouble brushing her teeth but had to get them pulled. Rapunzel loved her mother dearly, but whenever she had to go through surgery that seemed unreasonable, Rapunzel wouldn't hold back her screams of agony.

One other thing Rapunzel hated was when she tried to ask questions.

"But Mother Gothel, I can stand on my own."

"You're not okay Rapunzel, you can stand but it's very unhealthy to do so."

"But I am okay. I feel fine. I have always felt fine."

Mother Gothel then slapped her and locked her up in her room for a whole day without food or water.

Rapunzel would do anything in her power to stop herself from undergoing the surgeries, but if she did then Mother Gothel would scream, slap, cut, punch, and deny her food as punishment.

Mother Gothel would do the same thing if Rapunzel even thought to ask why she had to do such unnecessary horrible things.

But everything changed when Rapunzel was a teenager. For years Mother Gothel brought a book every five months as entertainment. Rapunzel knew little of reading and writing because Mother Gothel had taught her some then gave up. However, little did Gothel know that Rapunzel never gave up, and she continued to teach herself for years. So one afternoon, Rapunzel had finally finished writing a sentence on a piece of cloth. She had been working on this for weeks and finally finished it. It read:

Someone, please help me. Rapunzel thought this was her best chance of safely escaping from her hellish tower. She took the piece of writing and sent it out the window, hoping it would fall into the hands of someone willing to help her.

One day, Rapunzel heard a knock on the window door. As she opened it, she was expecting to find her mother. Instead, a man her age fell through the window. He had climbed up the tower in curiosity. The young man had seen her standing there and asked her why she had all her illnesses.

They got to know each other and quickly decided to sneak Rapunzel out of the tower. But as their feet touched the ground, Mother Gothel was waiting for them.

The man was sent back home, and Rapunzel was beaten and physically restrained to her bed. She screamed and cried for mercy; Rapunzel realized her Mother wasn't the kind woman she thought she was. She sat on the floor in desolation, knowing the chances of escaping were slim. Mother Gothel commandeered her pieces of cloth and all her quills, ripping and smashing them to pieces. Rapunzel now didn't have any communication with the outside world. Gothel locked all the doors and watched her like a hawk.

After this, Rapunzel was terrified to do anything her mother said not to do. Rapunzel knew she could walk, knew she could eat, knew she could function perfectly thanks to the young man. But Rapunzel couldn't trust her mother enough to tell her that. So she did everything in her power to act like she was still disabled around her mother.

Rapunzel had gathered new pieces of parchment and cloth after a month, as well as one quill and favored grape juice she drank for ink. There was one brick in the wall that was always loose, she usually used it to hide toys or play with it when she was little.

But now, since Mother Gothel forgot about it, she used it to hide her parchment and quills. Rapunzel also put a painting from the opposite wall on top of the brick, just to be safe.

She began sending messages again, her hopeless feelings slowly decreasing.

Until one day.

A piece of parchment flew through her small window, it was folded oddly like it had wings. After several attempts at opening it without ripping it, Rapunzel unfolded the parchment. The author called himself Flynn Ryder. He had found almost all of Rapunzel's pleas for help and had finally gotten his letter inside her window. He just didn't know how to free her. So from then on, they wrote on parchment to each other and wrote about when they could get Rapunzel out.

Over the next few months, Rapunzel had learned to make what Flynn called, a 'parchment airplane'. It sailed through the air like a bird slicing through the wind. Rapunzel began to share everything with Flynn, and he shared everything with her. She learned that he was a wanderer with brown eyes and brown hair, he was known for his criminal record, and he came from a large kingdom not far from her tower.

Even though Flynn's face was on every wanted poster in the whole kingdom, Rapunzel trusted him more than anyone she'd ever met.

So after months of planning, the episode had begun. The plan was set, and this time, Rapunzel would escape successfully. Flynn traveled to the location and Rapunzel helped him sneak into her tower.

Rapunzel went to distract Mother Gothel as Flynn crept up behind her. Rapunzel looked at her adversary she once called her mother one last time, as Flynn stabbed Mother Gothel with trembling hands.

They escaped back to the village, but Rapunzel wasn't free yet. When they entered the village, guards immediately recognized Flynn and arrested them both. A couple of weeks later, both were sent to the dungeon. Rapunzel and Flynn were later convicted for killing Mother Gothel and were each given a sentence in jail. Rapunzel only spent seven years in the dungeon, while Flynn had life. Even though it was that much more time in captivity, Rapunzel felt that the dungeon was the most free she had ever felt. She exchanged amorous notes with Flynn until Rapunzel had to leave. Rapunzel was now an adult and found that she was perfectly healthy all along. The true person who had medical problems was her late mother.

After years in a dungeon uniform, Rapunzel was released. She was so happy to be free and wanted to explore the world she'd been kept away from her whole life.



The end of an era: Nick Saban Retires

**By: Meadow Ahijevych
and Lucie Glatz**

The college football world and Tuscaloosa endured a shock after receiving the news that long-time Alabama head coach, Nick Saban, is retiring. On Wednesday, January 10th, 2024, Saban provided comments to an Alabama press release about his retirement stating, "The University of Alabama has been a very special place to Terry and me" Saban remarks in his announcement. "We have enjoyed every minute of our 17 years being the head coach at Alabama as well as becoming a part of the Tuscaloosa community. It is not just about how many games we won and lost, but it's about the legacy and how we went about it." Saban, now 72 years old, claims his reason for retirement is "age and health reasons," according to 247Sports.

During his years of coaching, Saban earned six national championships as the head coach of Alabama, and an additional one during his time at LSU. With 201 wins, he is tied for the second-most wins at a single school in SEC history, while securing 11 SEC championships on top of that. Saban's ability to transform programs was evident throughout his years of coaching. In just three years of being the LSU head coach, he got LSU their first national championship in over four decades. While Saban's achievements on the field are unmatched, he accomplished equally as much off the field. In 1998, Nick and his wife Terry started Nick's Kids



Foundation, an organization that has donated over \$11 million to hundreds of causes. Through his foundation, Saban has and continues to touch the lives of children, students, and teachers across the state of Alabama. Along with the Alabama community, Saban influences his team. He not only trained his players to fulfill their full potential as athletes, but he also taught them the importance of academics. When describing Saban's impact, Alabama President Stuart Bell said, "His commitment to excellence has set the standard for our program, both on the field and in the classroom. We are grateful for the lasting impact he has made on the lives of our student-athletes." His era of coaching may have come to an end, but Saban's legacy will live on. The University of Alabama scrambles to replace Nick Saban, a type of coach who only comes around once in a lifetime. 19 players have already entered the transfer portal after the Rose Bowl, and the remaining were informed they would have a new coach within 72 hours. Top college football coaches emerge as potential candidates for the job. The current leading prospect is Dan Lanning, Oregon's head coach. Lanning does excellent work at his job, and led Oregon to a PAC-12 championship this past season. Other possible contenders include Steve Sarkisin from Texas, and Lane Kiffin from Ole Miss.

have backgrounds in Alabama's coaching staff from previous years. Regardless of who inherits the job, they have big shoes to fill considering they are following the football coach legend, Nick Saban.

"The University of Alabama has been a very special place to Terry and me" Saban remarks in his announcement. "We have enjoyed every minute of our 17 years being the head coach at Alabama as well as becoming a part of the Tuscaloosa community. It is not just about how many games we won and lost, but it's about the legacy and how we went about it."

The Weeknd: Past, Present, and Future

Written By Bella Murphy
January 26th, 2024

The artist known as 'The Weeknd', Abel Tesfaye, has single handedly dominated the pop music industry since the release of his 2015 album, *Beauty Behind The Madness*. The album's hits, including 'The Hills', 'Often', and 'Can't Feel My Face', kept The Weeknd at the top of the charts for years. This success was only the beginning of his meteoric rise to fame. The Weeknd broke world records with the release of *After Hours*, becoming the first artist in history to reach 115 million monthly listeners on *Spotify*. Additionally, the song 'Blinding Lights' shattered streaming records, becoming the most streamed song in *Spotify's* history. During the global pandemic, 'Blinding Lights' brought joy to thousands and became a symbol of that challenging time. Every aspect of the *After Hours* album seemed to unlock new paths in The Weeknd's career. The album was conceptual, unique, well-organized, deeply personal, and unforgettable.

In 2020, an undeniable musical marvel began to form as The Weeknd created a tale unlike any other. In the album, 'After Hours', each song and music video revealed to be like a cinematic masterpiece that had never been witnessed before. Two years later, album 'Dawn FM' was unleashed upon the world, and as fans and critics delved into its depths, they began to see faint



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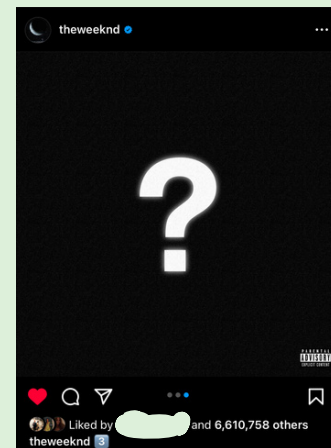
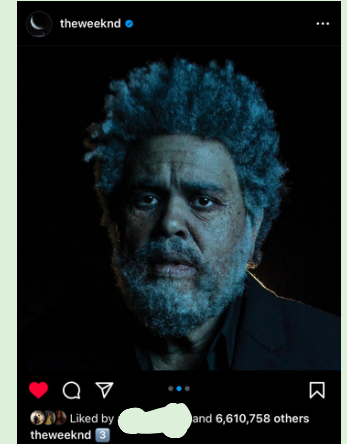
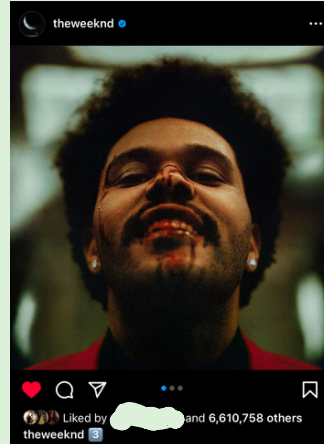
outlines of a continuous storyline, linking the two albums. The Weeknd is a visionary and a storyteller who channels his true artistry to build characters, convey powerful messages, and take the listener on a journey. With his long impacting lyrics, evocative music videos, and captivating performances, he leaves no stone unturned in his journey to create a vivid experience of sound and emotion. And now, on the 7th of January 2024, two years after the release of 'Dawn FM', The Weeknd evasively announced an eagerly awaited new album, beginning a spark of hope and anticipation in the hearts of his fans and the eyes of the world.

The Weeknd, a master musical storyteller, created a captivating character whose journey unfolds over two albums, and soon to be three. This character's tale has served as a reflective mirror of the human experience. In *After Hours*, the shadows of life - love, fear, pain, violence, regret, and loneliness - control the character, casting an otherworldly spell, curse, and illumination. The after-hours, that elusive

space between work hours, becomes a symbolic portal into the character's psyche, where he is forced to combat the complexities of his existence. Each darkness within the album echoed the title's essence, representing the world's darkest hours. But as 'Dawn FM' rose, a vision of light emerged, guiding the character out of the abyss. Death and the afterlife became the canvases upon which the character painted curiosity, euphoria, terror, power, weakness, and regret. Abel Tesfaye, the mastermind behind the story, crafted a character with futuristic flair, newly discovered self-expression, and a self-reflective storyline that captivates the soul. The storyline left listeners yearning for more, wondering what lies ahead for the character and when they will be privy to what comes next.

Following the release of Dawn FM, The Weeknd refrained from releasing any new album. On January 10th, 2022, the artist teased his followers with a cryptic tweet that read, "I wonder... Did you know you're experiencing a new trilogy?" The use of the word "new" referred to his first three official releases, which were a series of EPs titled "Echoes of Silence," "Thursday," and "House of Balloons," initially released in 2011 and later compiled into a composition album titled "Trilogy." After the tweet, The Weeknd shifted his focus to other career aspects, including global tours from 2022 to 2023 and co-directing, producing new music for, and acting in an HBO original series

titled "The Idol," which premiered on June 4th, 2023. It wasn't until January 7th, 2024, that fans received confirmation that The Weeknd was working on his next project.



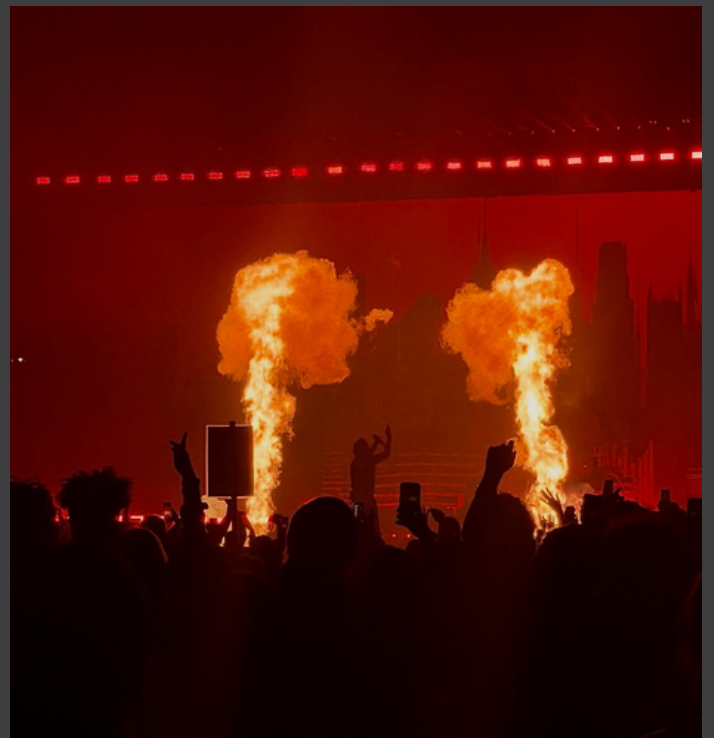
On January 7th, 2024, The Weeknd posted on Instagram, sharing a series of three photos. The first photo being the album cover of "After Hours," the second was the cover of "Dawn FM," and the third was a white question mark with a parental advisory warning at the bottom, confirming the post to be announcing a third album to this informal trilogy. The Weeknd's cryptic caption "3" indicates the completion of a new trilogy, leaving fans excited and curious. While the post

provides some hints, it also raises several unanswered questions, such as the release date of the third album, whether the question mark image is the true album cover or just a teaser, and whether this will be The Weeknd's last release. The use of the question mark image is fitting, as it reflects the fans' state of anticipation and heavy confusion.

This casual and enigmatic announcement is not unusual coming from The Weeknd, as he is known for his social commentaries and individualistic choices in his career. Though he has not yet given us much to work with, there is great anticipation to follow the subtle announcement. The Weeknd has consistently pushed the boundaries of what it means to be a musician and artist in the modern era. With his unique sound and style, he has reached a status where he is but a necessity in the industry of music. His decision to announce the end of the trilogy has only added to the mystique and intrigue surrounding his work. As we wait for the final chapter to unfold, it is clear that The Weeknd will continue to challenge our expectations and provide us with a truly unforgettable artistic experience. Whether you are a die-hard fan or a casual listener, there is no doubt that this is a moment in music history that you will not want to miss.



Photographed by Bella Murphy
After Hours Til Dawn Tour
July 27th, 2022



Anam

Poems

A Corpse

All that remains here
is a forest of mushrooms,
feasting on what was.
-Keira Ordonio

Rain

I walk down the side of the street,
watching the rain as everything else stares
back at me.
I feel warm drops cascade down my face.
All that was audible quiets, an arbitrary
procession

I continue forward, newly guided by
perpetuality,
Seeing none of the everything converge
with all of the nothing.
I feel that its time to stop, and yet my legs
keep moving.
All of the rain ceases; it can be heard
everywhere
-Heidi Herman

Rain and Snow

雨と雪
風は寒いぞ
冬が来る
ノア・ハッカビー

Translation:

Rain and Snow
The wind is cold
Winter is coming
-Noah Huckaby

Fade

It's funny how things fade. From sun to
the shade. Yet core memories always stay.
It's funny how a dream in time can slip
your mind, and though you try to get it
back it's hard to find. How moments
become memories and someday stories
that you hope will be retold. But soon you
long forget yourself, and other ones
unfold. I understand we all forget, and
that things always fade, but I replay you
everyday so hopefully you'll stay.

-Alyssa Andresen

Featured Short Story:

Nothing

by: Caroline Simpson

I awaken. There is nothing near and yet nothing far either. The inner eyelids did not prepare me for this suffocating darkness. In this vast plane of darkness, I find myself walking on a rough jagged floor. This eternal darkness is quiet; the patternless echo of my own breath drives me mad. My body aches, as if I have been frozen like a statue for a significant amount of time, a time I have no memory of. I will my body to move, chipping away the stone statue and turning it back to flesh. My face splinters, my calves crack, and my mind erodes away until all that is left is what was originally buried. I continue to walk, the stone floor pressing into my feet like a cookie cutter of aperiodic tilings. I walk for minutes, centuries, or hours. I walk for seconds, years, decades on end. The darkness gets lighter, but it is still blinding. I continue to move, time walking beside me even if I am unable to see. The jaggedness of the floor no longer hurts, and even brings a sense of comfort to me. After yet another walk with no alteration, I decide to try something new. I place a palm on the wall. The wall of the darkness is colder and smoother than the floor, but unfamiliar and loose. If I were to hold on too tight, the wall could easily crumble and bury me under the gravel it's made of. Holding the wall along with time's hand, I begin on another trek. The darkness gets lighter then darker again. Time slips through my fingers as I move my legs, one foot in front of the other. The path is familiar and I fall to a trance, feeling my way through the dark. Fingers run through simple grooves, ones I know I've felt before. The hand is in tune with the predictable shapes, it rises and falls before the wall can keep up. Sliding up and down, in and out, like a rigged ball drop game, falling down the same shaft every time. In all this time walking I've run into them lots. There's no way this pattern naturally occurs. This darkness bears no corners, no walkways, no stairs, only inside is one spiral turn. I fall back in shock as the ground seems to sink, and my heels cry out from the pressure. Stones stick to the bottom as I lift them up, feeling around on the bottom. I'm sure that they're bruised and all kinds of purples as the realization chokes me; I've been walking in circles.