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Discussion 2

I would like to discuss "The Beautiful Gelreesh", written by Jeffrey Ford. In this short story, the plot centers around a mysterious being called “The Gelreesh” that has the power of metamorphosis. Throughout the story it uses its power to blend in with its environment, taking on various disguises to blend in with the inhabitants of various villages and towns. The Gelreesh, when disguised, tricks the reader into thinking its purpose is to help suffering patients. The Gelreesh takes advantage of the emotional disparity of its patients and eventually pushes them towards only one solution, which is death. The relationship here is perplexing as the mysterious creature clearly takes advantage of depressed patients and uses their despair to force them to kill themselves as a way for it to consume their flesh once they have died. Once the Gelreesh has developed a sinister reputation by the locale, it escapes its surroundings and goes from one town to the next. This story provides the reader with a sense of dread, as the creature can blend in seamlessly with its environment, until it is eventually captured and executed. It provides the reader with a disturbing sense of the unknown and questions the readers’ understanding of what an alien creature is. The short story engages the reader with various elements of entertainment by prompting them to question their own moral beliefs as we gain a deeper understanding of the creatures’ motives.