

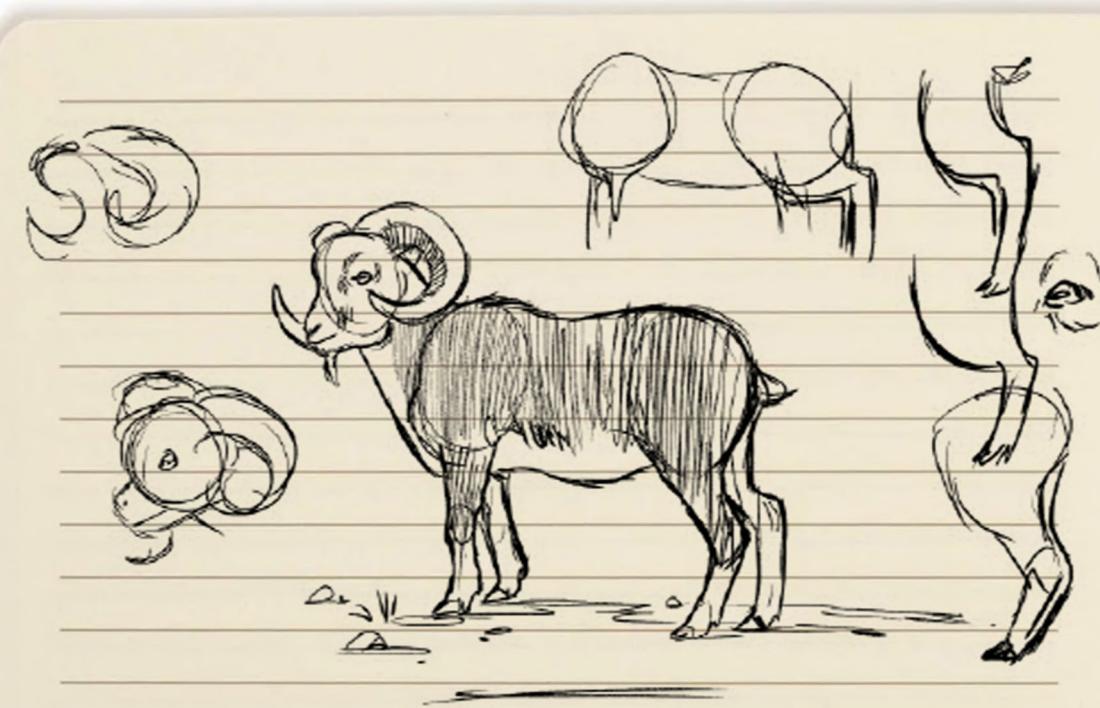
Tommy joel



farming rotation blows, I don't
get why people ask for this
assignment. Note to self:
talk to Maria about how early
I can sign up for patrol training.

Dina and I found this cool old campground today. She said kids used to go there in the summers for fun. We found all these art supplies. She cut colored paper and made some crowns for us while it rained outside. It was a good day.



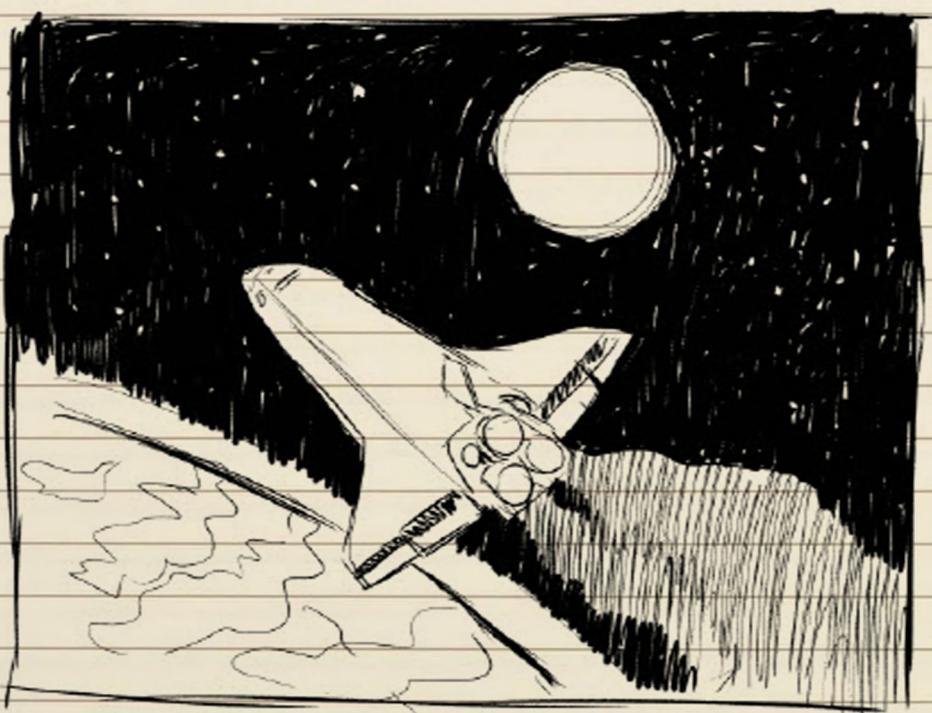


joel said he's taking me on a camping trip next week for my birthday. He found something he says I'll love! He's acting very proud of himself. Smug old fogey.

cat sat next to me at movie night. our elbows kept touching. I think she was doing it on purpose? maybe not. ~~probably~~ probably not.

Dina made me a crown for my birthday. She went back to that camp and got all this paper. It's... pretty great.





one day

I've just had the worst/best day of my life! Cat was finishing another session on my arm and then climbed on top of me and kissed me. I threw her off of me. I yelled at her. I thought I infected her. I mean... I'm infected... sort of. I don't know how the fuck this shit transfers. What if she turns? What would I tell people? She's got family.

I told her we should take a walk. I lied and said I'd never kissed anyone and that I was just nervous. She was actually sweet about my freak out. We spent the day walking and talking. Then she came to my place for a movie. She fell asleep... I stayed up all night watching her. Looking for signs of infection.

The next morning she was fine. Nothing.

I'm not contagious! And Cat likes me!! what a fucking rollercoaster!!!!



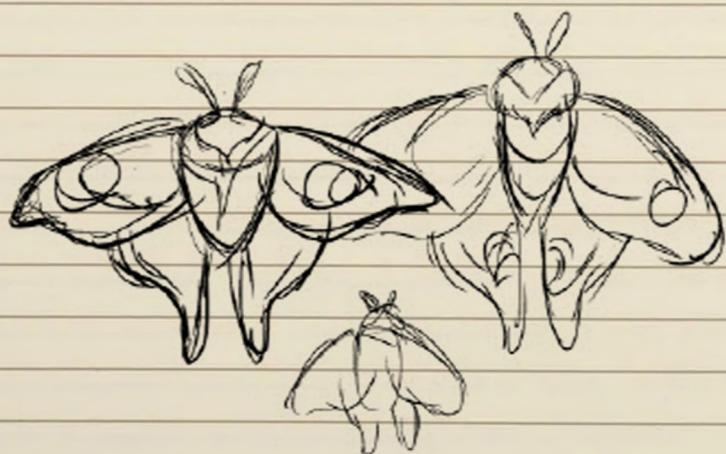
Cat's the fucking best. That is all.



So on stable cleaning today Jesse told me Cat referred to me as her girlfriend. She's so open about everything. She talks to her mom about us. She held my hand when we were all out at the lake. Kissed me in front of our friends. Everyone seems to know except for Joel, should I tell him? I don't know. I don't know how he'd react.

I feel like Dina's avoiding me. Cat says
She's just jealous about how I'm spending
my time. I keep trying to invite Dina
along, but she keeps saying she's busy.

~~lying on stone~~
perched on an outcropping
you ~~follow~~ trace constellations in the sky.
~~I trace the lines on your~~
I trace the ink on your skin
~~that hide the~~
That covers the scars, the burns,
Decorating the darkness
like stars,



it smells like wet leaves
and firewood out here ...

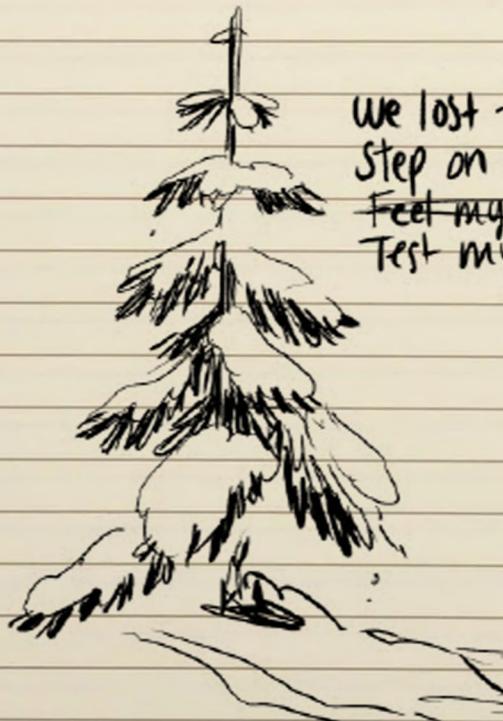


I thought I could let it go...
I wanted to let it go... He's gonna freak
out when he realizes I've gone.

Should be at the hospital by tonight.
I don't know who or what I expect to
find. All I know is that I'm anxious
and scared.



No one is here. The place is clearly
abandoned. Fuck it... I'm going inside.
There's gotta be something



we lost the ground to snow.
Step on the ice.
~~Feel my thaw.~~
Test my thaw.

Was Eugene in touch with other Fireflies?
Did he hear about me and Joel? No he
would've said something.

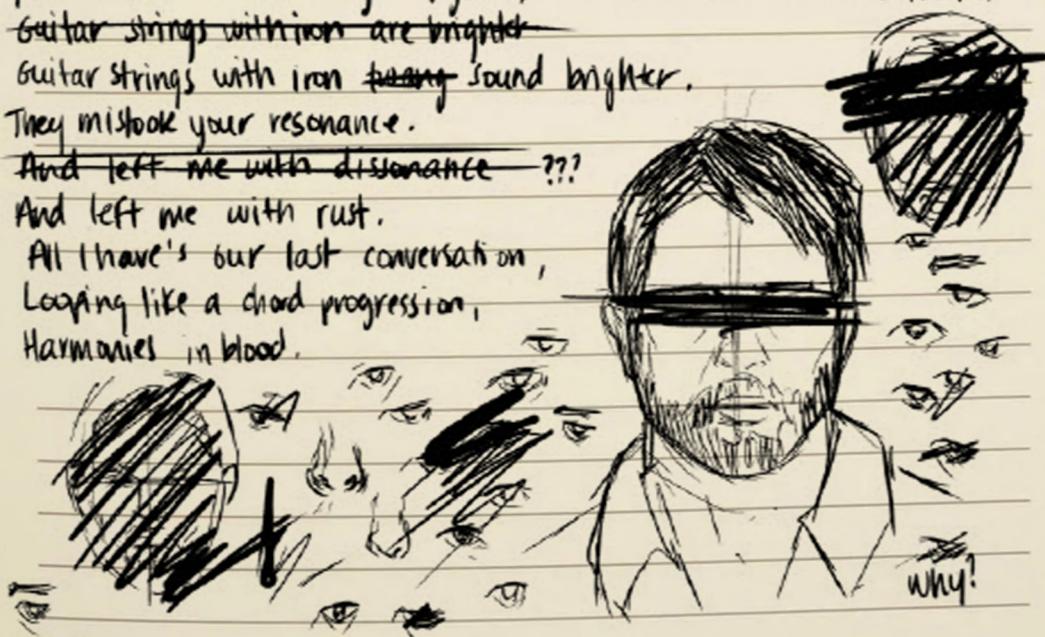


My mouth tastes like iron, wounds break open as I ~~scream~~ sing.
You were the soft twang of nylon. ~~A~~ ~~the~~ A smell of wood oil. ~~Fret~~ ~~fret~~
Guitar strings with iron are brighter
Guitar strings with iron ~~sound~~ sound brighter.
They mistook your resonance.

And left me with dissonance ???

And left me with rust.

All that's our last conversation,
Looping like a chord progression,
Harmonies in blood.



W.L.F.
Washington Liberation
Front - who are they?

Tommy said her name
was ABBY.



All the promises at sundown,
I meant them like the rest...

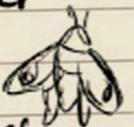
Idaho falls. Dina caught three Jack Rabbits tonight. She has these traps her sister taught her how to build - they're fucking effective. My appetite hasn't come back yet. Trying to force food down.



Twin Falls. Found a camp along the main highway. If it was Tommy's, he's probably only a day or so ahead of us. We're getting close to Boise. Dina's pushing to go around. I don't want to add two days to this trip.



These hunters tried to ambush us. Fuckers didn't stand a chance against us. We were searching for supplies and I was looking at Dina. I felt a deep appreciation for her coming along. I really love her.



Baker City. We saw a pack of wild horses today. They were skittish, then Dina offered them some of the fruit we collected. They ended up following us for a bit. Wish I had a camera. I've never seen her smile so wide. For like half a day I wasn't thinking of the WLF or Joel. Feeling guilty about that now.



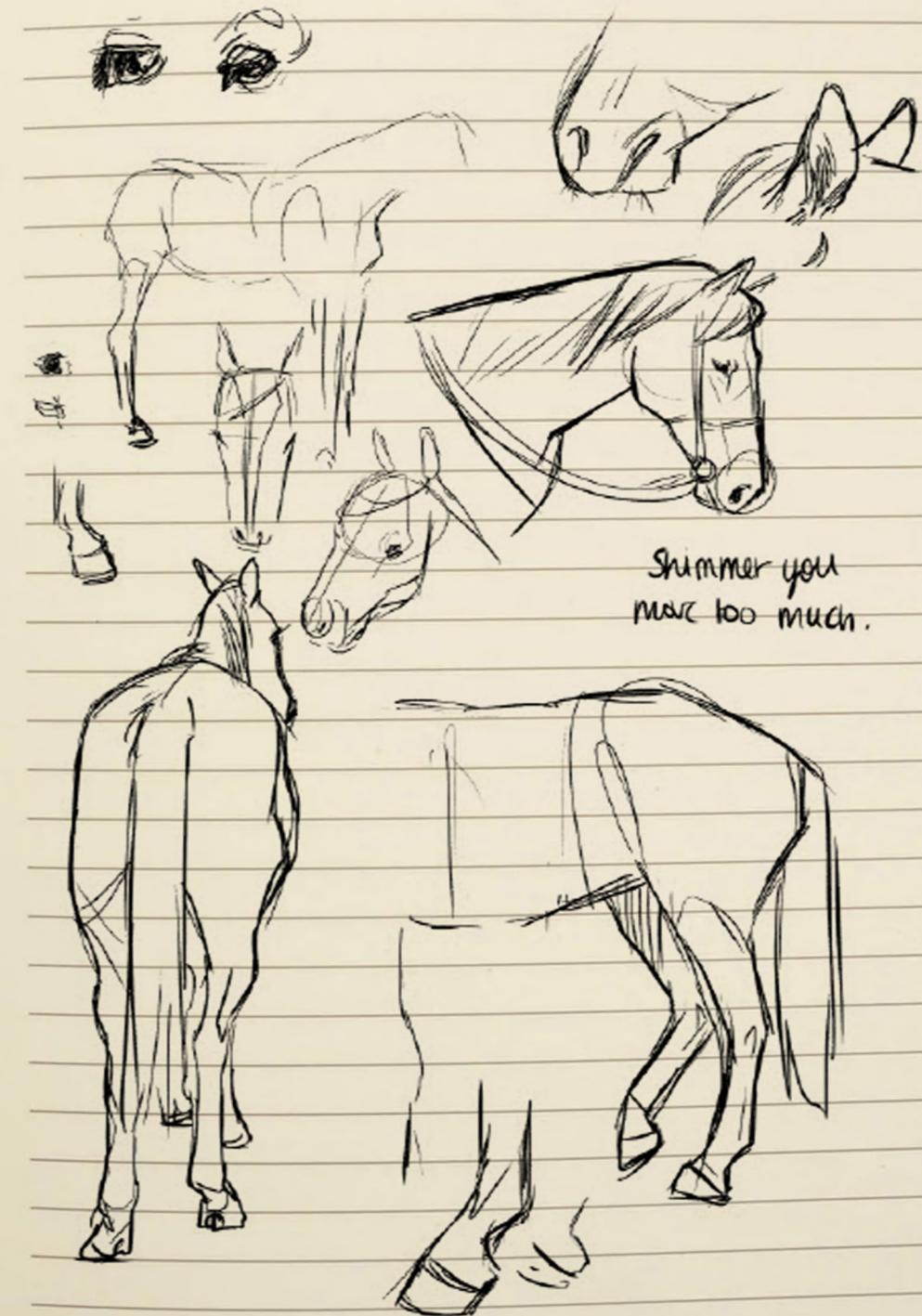
I'm struggling to sleep. keep seeing him with his head... Dina seems to be sick. Think she caught a cold. I feel calmer with her laying next to me. I want to do something nice for her...



Yakima. Found another camp along the highway. Can't be sure it was Tommy but we haven't seen other people in two weeks, so... fingers crossed.

LF TRESPASSERS
KILLED ON
SIGHT!

How many of you are there?
How many people have you killed?



when I think about ~~feel~~ him,
All I see is open skin, slack jaw, insides out.

I won't let her remember me that way.
I'd rather die alone.

~~Did she die alone?~~

~~Was her God with her?~~

~~Was He with you in the end?~~

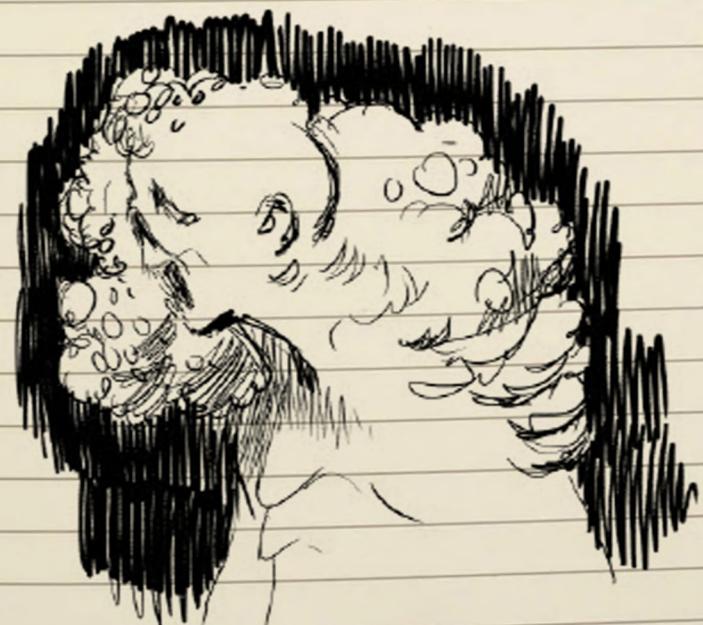
~~Was he with ~~feel~~? Did I make it worse for ~~feel~~, being there?
or was I company?~~

~~He/She~~ More than I was with him?

Beyond faith in pain,
~~I want faith from pain~~
I want faith through pain.



Shambler ... how are there
new infected?



What do I do here? How do I... we just started... I shouldn't have said that to her. She's gonna treat me differently now, I know it. I wish my mask didn't fucking break. When did she figure out she was pregnant? Where were we a couple weeks ago? Boise? I remember her throwing up in Kennewick... this is too much.

It all fucking makes sense... the throwing up. How tired she's been. What the fuck, Dina! Why didn't you tell me? Why didn't you trust me?

| But did you trust her? |

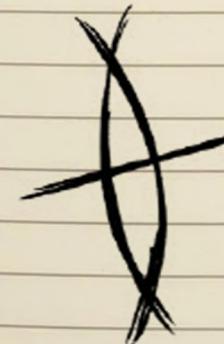
what should I do? It's too late to turn back. Just gotta end this thing as quickly as possible.

FUCK
THE WLF

Jesse's here. This is good. He can help protect Dina.

It felt good having him around to deal with the WLF.

Maybe he can help us find these people more quickly. I don't want to hear anything about turning back.



"I feel her love"

Who the fuck are these people?
Why did they do this?



LAKEHILL
SEATTLE
HOSPITAL

I think this is it. Watch for big red sign.



Scars. Fuck these people. Stay focused on why you're here.



What I know:

- They're former Fireflies. From the hospital. It makes sense. It's what my gut said all along.
- The WLF took a bunch of them in after they disbanded.
- They travelled to Jackson specifically to kill Joel to torture Joel. Killing him wasn't enough.
- Abby is hiding out in the aquarium.



What I don't know:

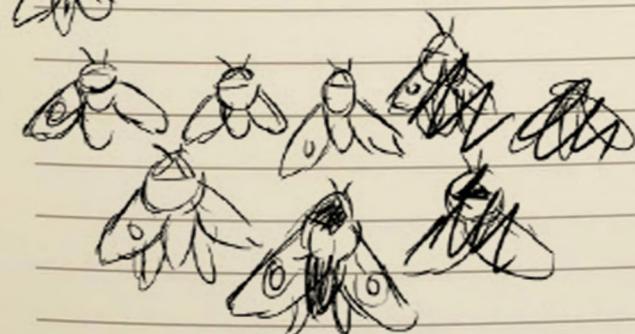
- Why is Abby hiding out? Does it matter?
- Where are the rest of them? Do they matter if I get Abby? No.
- Where's Tommy? Is he still alive? He has to be.

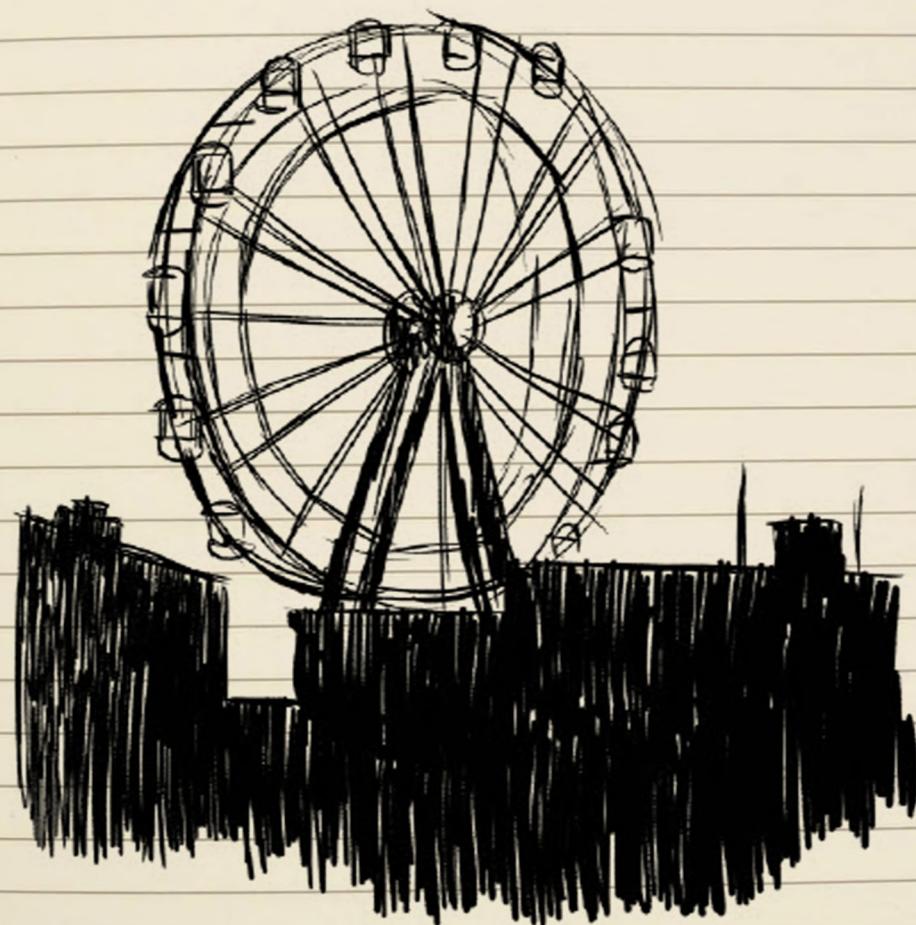


Should I tell Dina & Jesse about this? No. They can't know what Joel did. They won't understand.



Do I understand?





Alday I begged you
to stop.

You brought this
on yourself,

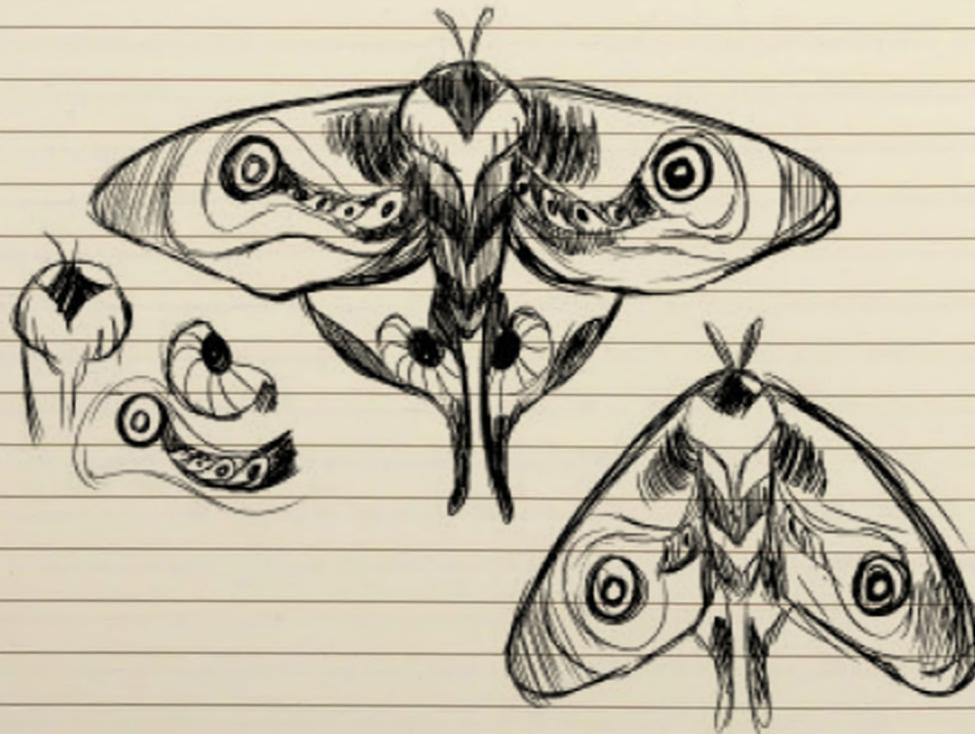
- OWEN Moore



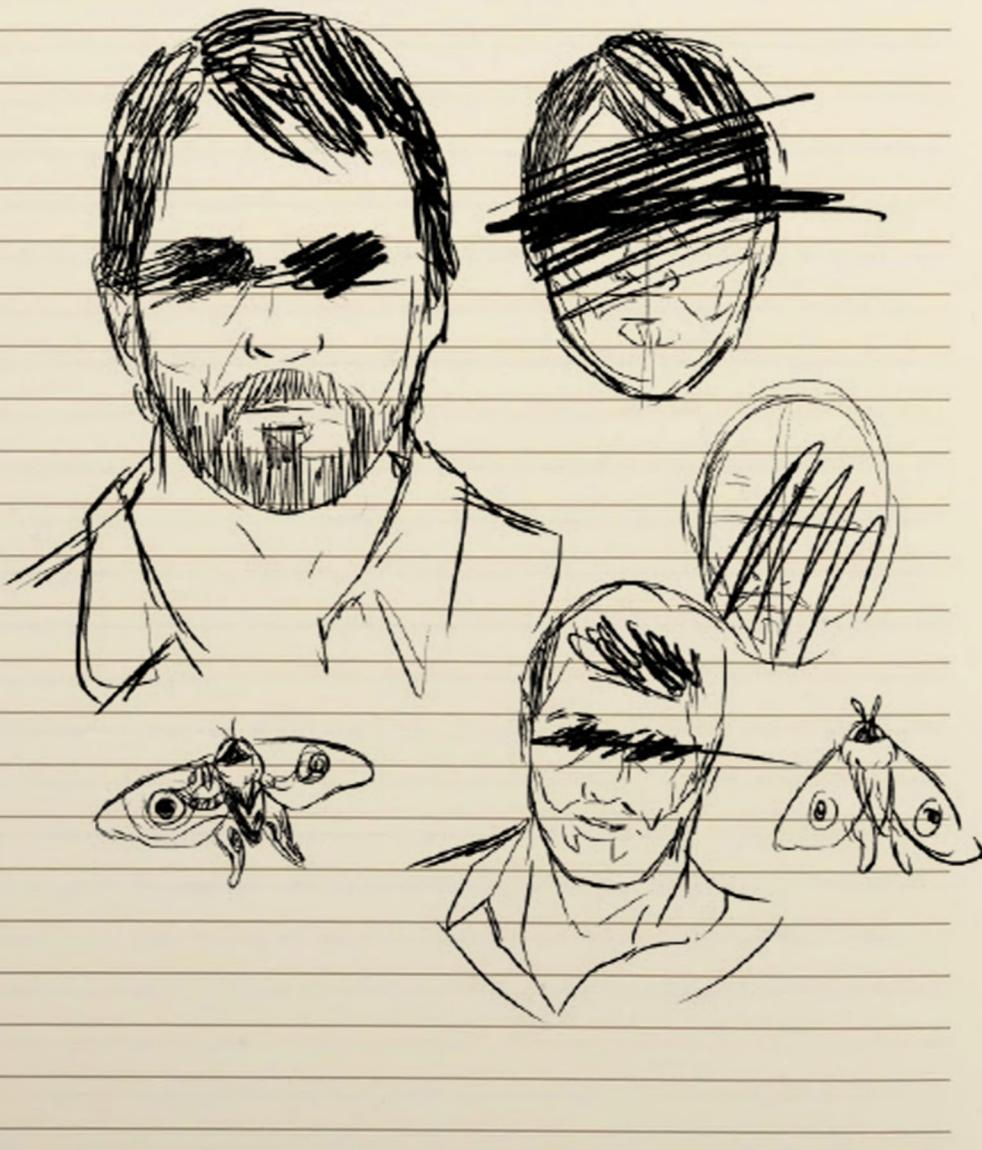
I don't think I can tolerate this...
It's too painful.

I feel like I'm betraying him if I leave.
Is it even about him anymore?

He'd want me to leave. He'd put the people
he loves first.



Happened again. Got rid of the images pretty quickly, but my skin hurt the rest of the morning. I gave up trying to go back to sleep. Dina stayed up with me. When will this stop?



I don't know how Dina talks so easily about Jesse. She tells JJ all about him. She thinks it'd be good for me to talk about Joel. To get it out. When she says that it makes the memories sound like food poisoning.

I don't want to talk about it. It's just gonna hurt. And I think once I'd start I wouldn't be able to stop.



TOOK JJ on a ride today. He laughed the whole time. I almost didn't think about Seattle all day. It was nice.

Jesse's parents came out today. It was nice at first. They're good people. But then they started pushing for us to move back to Jackson. I couldn't handle it and left for the woods. I didn't come back until late at night. Dina stayed up for me. I could tell she was mad, but she grabbed my hand and led me to bed. I feel so guilty.



It happened again. I was hunting this boar and I'd cornered it in this old gas station. It was bleeding out, screaming. sounded like him. Then I couldn't get the images out of my head. I left it there, dying. My skin hurts.



When does it get quiet?

Time was supposed to

suffocate the urge...

Suffocate the desire...

Extinguish?

Extinguish the desire...

Haunted by your stare smiles

The mask keeps getting heavier

It's sliding off my face
one step forward, two steps back.

There's a noose around my neck
And the further I get

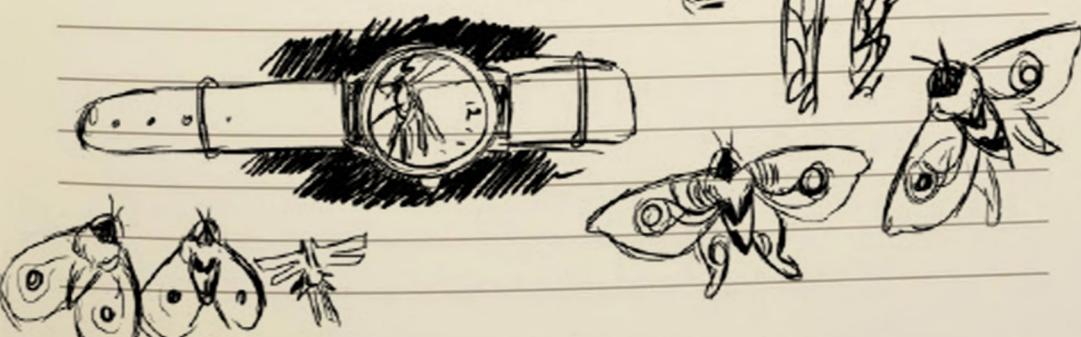
~~the tighter~~ it's harder and harder to breathe
Can I find a way to cut the ~~and~~ rope cord?

I've been waiting for dawn
But the light is all gone.

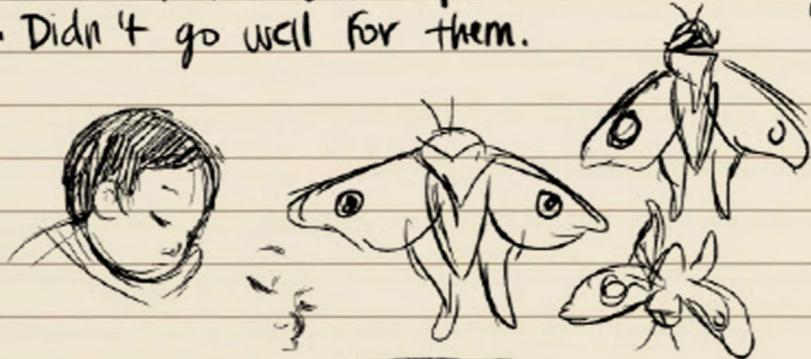
~~I've lost the light~~

Don't know if I'm already
Blind...

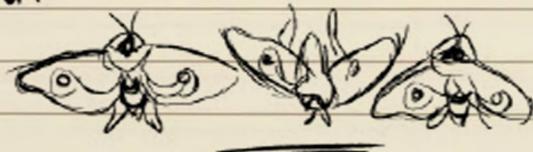
Can I leave it all behind?



Dixie National Forest. Couple hunters tried to jump me. Didn't go well for them.



I just got to the outskirts of Las Vegas. I can hear the infected from here. Must be thousands still alive inside the walls. What a nightmare. I'm gonna go around.



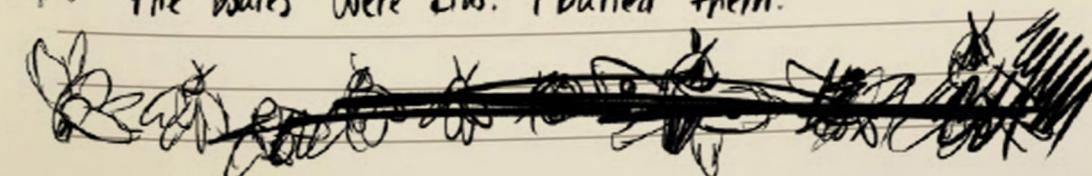
Palmdale, CA. So, I'm hiding out in a basement. Hoping the hordes passes by.



Still in this fucking basement. The batteries in my flashlight are almost done. The dark is fucking with me. I keep seeing him. Smelling iron. I miss Dina. I miss Potato. What am I doing here.



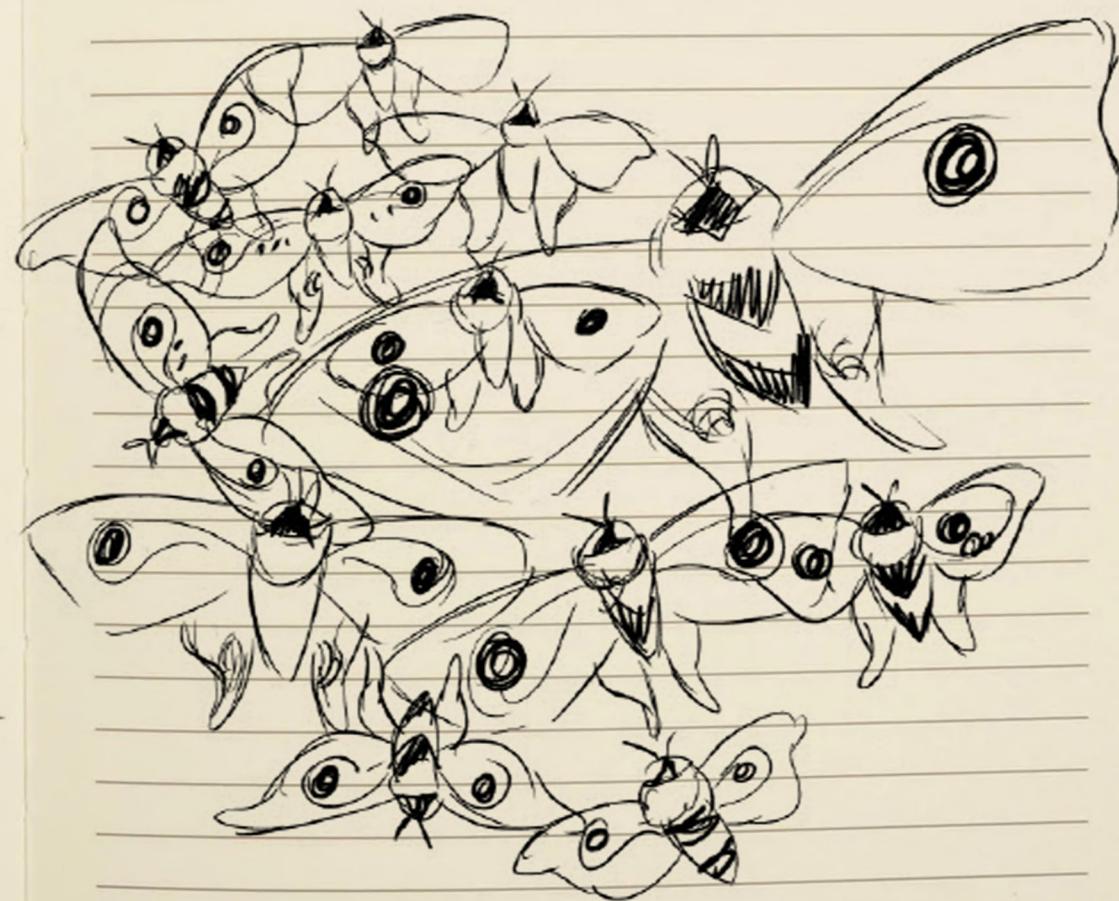
I got out. The hordes got distracted by a group of travelers. Some of them didn't make it. Two of the bodies were kids. I buried them.



Made it to the coast finally. It's gorgeous. Flowers everywhere. There's this thick morning gloom. Doesn't seem like the military ever came through. Maybe it was too spread out. I wish Dina could see this. She'd lose her shit. I like the sound of the waves.



Heading down the coast. Haven't seen people in a few days. Or intact sailboats. What if Tommy was wrong? What if they're not here anymore? I can't think about that.



2425 Constance



Scars.
Wolves.
Fireflies.
Fuck all these groups.

would it have been better if I'd stayed?
Swallowed up the regret ~~and~~ shame,
Given them what's left of me?
~~Was it mine to give?~~
Do I still have it to give?

can I offer the scraps now?
Gnash and bone. Chewed up and rotting.
or will it make them sick;
Corrode their insides, ~~cripple~~ poison them?

I could be in the woods,
~~Burned for the insects to clean,~~
Left for the insects to clean,
Until the iron smell is gone,
Until I'm bleached and ~~beautiful~~ brittle;
Ready to display.



