

Brianna Quintero

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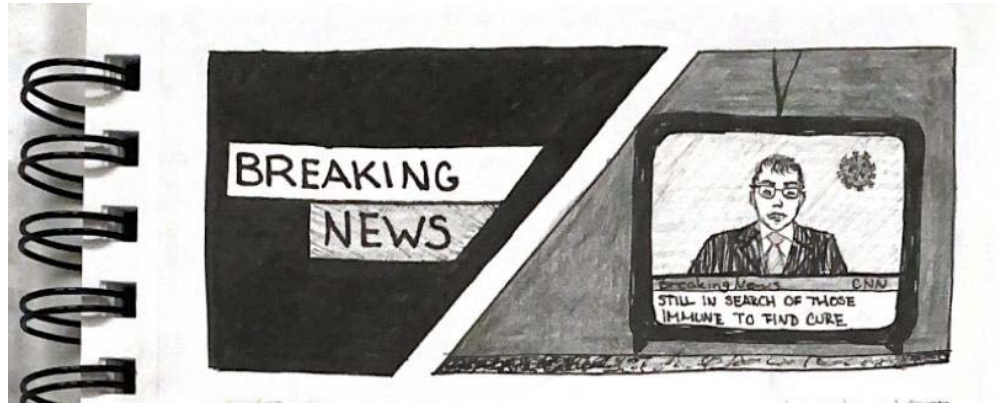
ENGL200

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Final Project

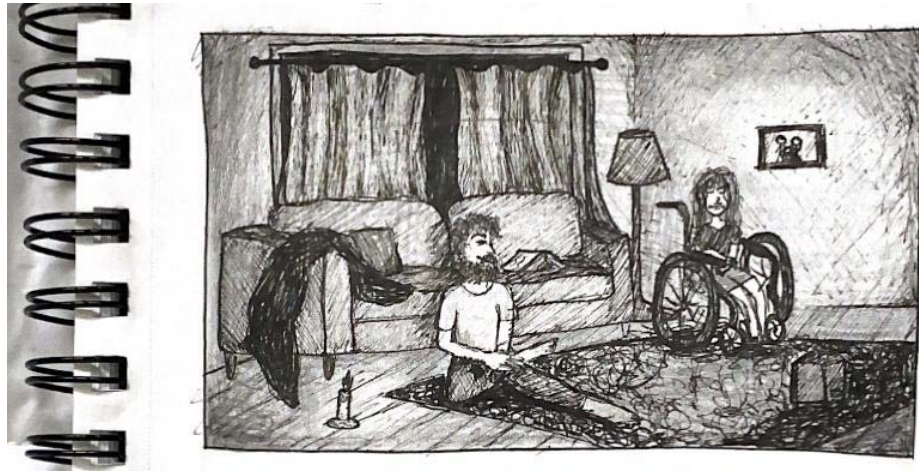
For this project I choose to draw a few scenes from a story that I had read this semester. When reading, the description of the settings and the overall tone of the stories helps me build a very detailed picture of the story. This is important to me and one of my favorite parts of weird fiction because it helps me understand the story as well as feel like I am in it, though I don't think I'd particularly enjoy being a part of any of the readings. Each reading was so unique and gave me many different ideas that I attempted to imitate to show my thought process when reading a weird literature piece.

The first story I decided to draw was "Soft" by F. Paul Wilson. I have talked about this story a few times before because of the amount of parallels I connect to what is going on today in the world. This story follows a possible virus that is credited to cause a deadly disease of softness. This softness was caused by the degradation of bone, meaning it disappeared. However, there are individuals who are immune to this virus, and the narrator happens to be one of them. The narrator is a father to an eighteen year old girl named Judy. The story starts out with the two watching the news, on a tiny tv, as they ask for those immune to come forth to Rockefeller Center to be examined. They needed those who had gotten the disease and survived in order to help create a serum or drug against it. This is where I decided to begin my drawing.



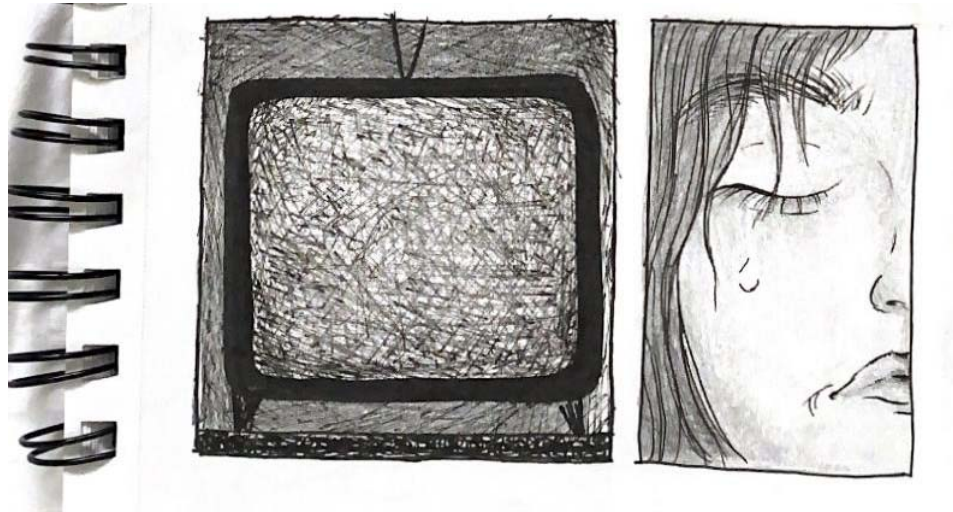
As they are watching the news, the narrator is sitting on the floor massaging his legs and Judy is sitting in a wheelchair. They had both gotten the disease weeks before, it took the bones of their legs, more so from judy. It had stopped progressing for a few weeks giving them hope that they would be okay. Because of this, they are perfect candidates for observation to create a cure. Judy feels the need to help others, but her father is more concerned about her. He refuses to participate in their research and that includes Judy as well, despite the possibility of a cure.

I drew this scene very dark and ominous not only because of the situations they were going through but also because the virus had been around for a year now and there was mention of a power outage possibly due to people not working. In the reading, the narrator laughs as the news broadcaster goes soft on live news, and at the same time, Judy is distraught. There is a space between the two because this disagreement causes some separation between them. He feels this entitlement because they had gotten it and survived and feels that they are safe, he almost takes the disease as a joke now. It is almost as if Judy is taking the situation more seriously.



This reminded me of how, in our own pandemic, people felt the same way. It is not completely comparable as COVID-19 is not as dramatic, but we can still see instances where people were not taking it seriously despite it being deadly. In a way people were acting selfishly, only caring about themselves despite there being precautions that could have been taken to help protect others. In a way, this could have also helped themselves as COVID-19 could have been controlled sooner. This is similar to how the narrator is only taking into account himself and his daughter despite his ability to help others. In the same way, by helping develop a cure, he could have helped himself and his daughter especially since, as we see later in the story, the virus is likely mutating, killing even those who are immune. It is almost like karma

Shortly after the news broadcaster went soft, the tv went blank and the room filled with white noise. This reminded me of the tv static when you switch to the wrong channel, which feeds to the ominous vibe. It is almost like the whole world is going static along with the tv. They are alone in this world, and the narrator is refusing to believe it. They have no idea who is left or how many people are gone and Judy can sense it, she begins to cry.



I decided to recreate the beginning scenes of the story because it depicts some of the different conflicts that are going on. The most obvious, it mentions the virus in an informative and still interesting way. However, it also depicts the conflict between the father and daughter that is prevalent throughout the story. Just from these first scenes, we can get a very broad understanding of what their life is like. We can see the separation between the two as well as the darkness. I drew it in black and white only because this life is obviously very bleak and depressing. The house feels lonely and empty because this isn't their actual home and it's just the two of them since Judy's mom had died.

By drawing for my final project, I can show the way that I understand the story and put all the details together. There are details sprinkled throughout the whole book that helped me create these images. A story isn't one still image, so by putting the images into a comic type storyline, it helps show the order of events and the way that I interpreted the writing.

