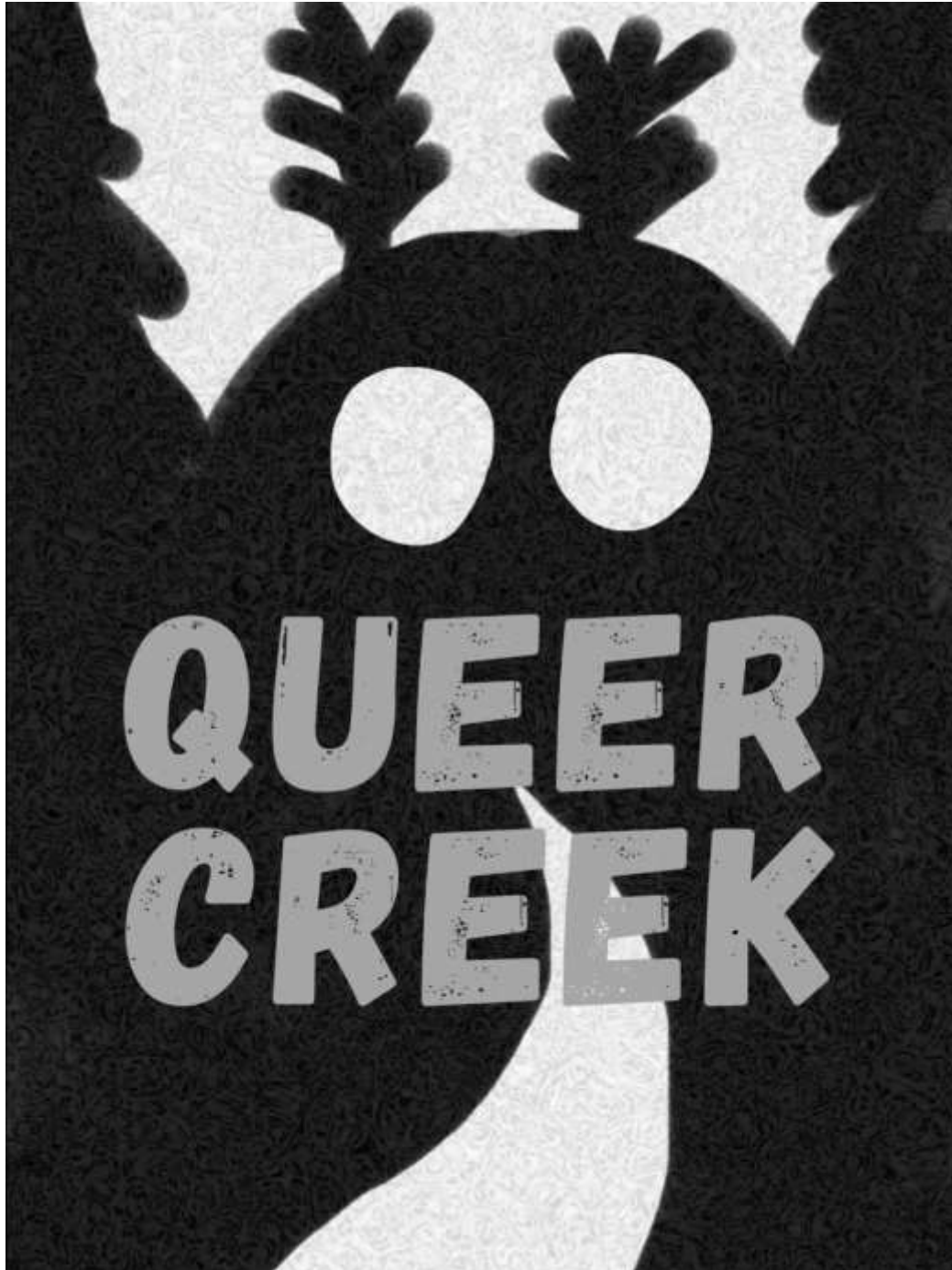


Queer Creek: The Zine

More information/community work on Instagram @queercreekzine

Volume 1:

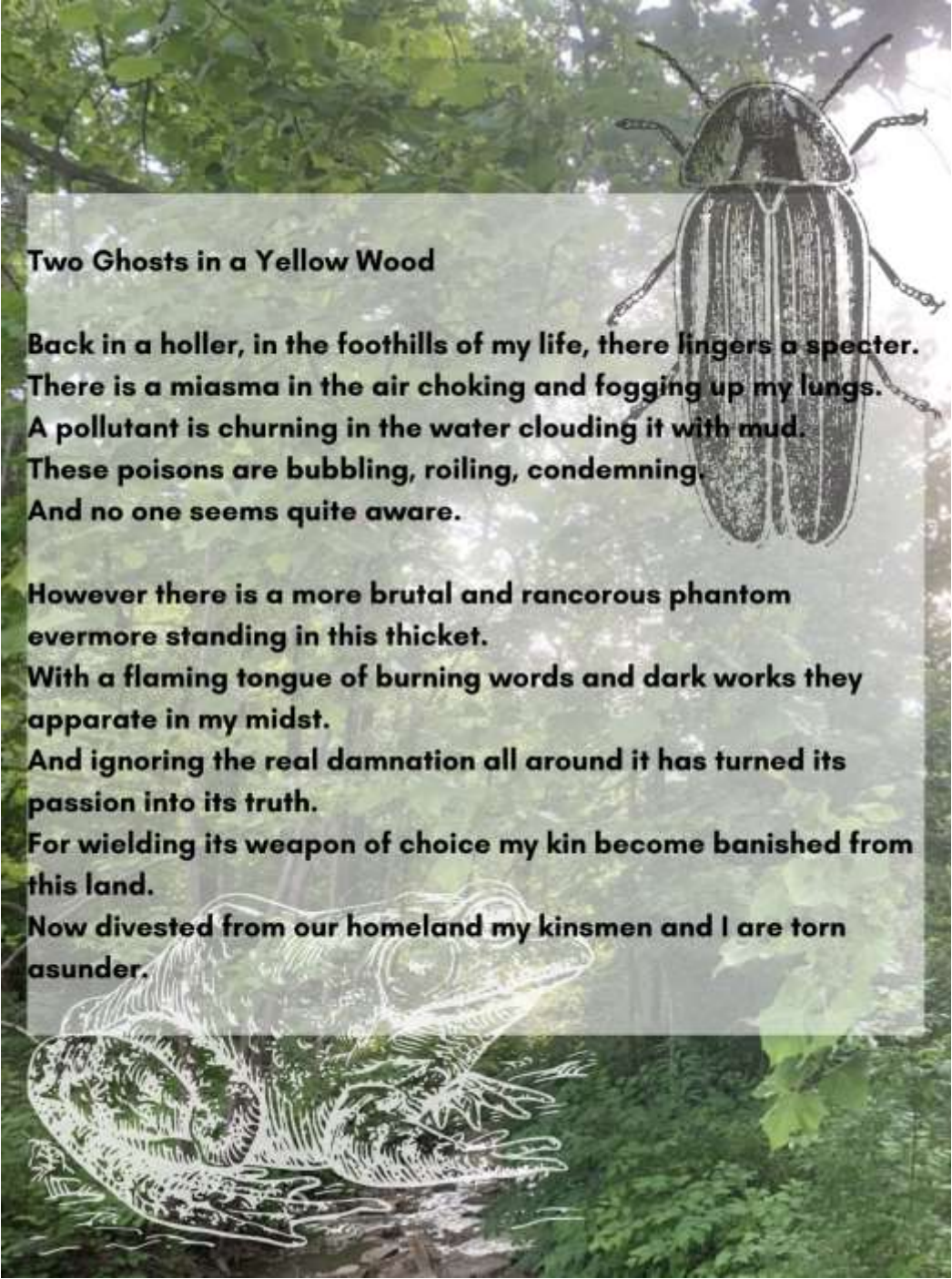




INTRODUCTION FROM THE EDITOR-

HEY, Y'ALL! MY NAME IS EMILY (BI, SHE/THEY) AND I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE PAGES OF QUEER CREEK, A SAFE SPACE FOR QUEER APPALACHIAN DISCOURSE. THIS VOLUME CENTERS ON THE ASPECT OF NATURE IN REGARD TO QUEER APPALACHIAN CULTURE. NATURE IN THIS ZINE REFERS TO BOTH THE OUTDOORS AND TO THE HUMAN NATURE OF FINDING WHO WE ARE. NATURE IS INTEGRAL TO QUEER CULTURE WORLDWIDE, BUT IT IS DEEPENED IN THE APPALACHIAN CONTEXT WHERE IDENTITY CAN OFTEN BE AS MISHAPPEN AS THE MOUNTAINS THAT SURROUND US. THIS IS A SHOW OF AWARENESS OF THE EXISTENCE OF QUEER FOLK LIVING IN THE BACKWOODS OF THE WORLD AND SOCIETY. WE ARE HERE AND WE WILL BE HEARD.

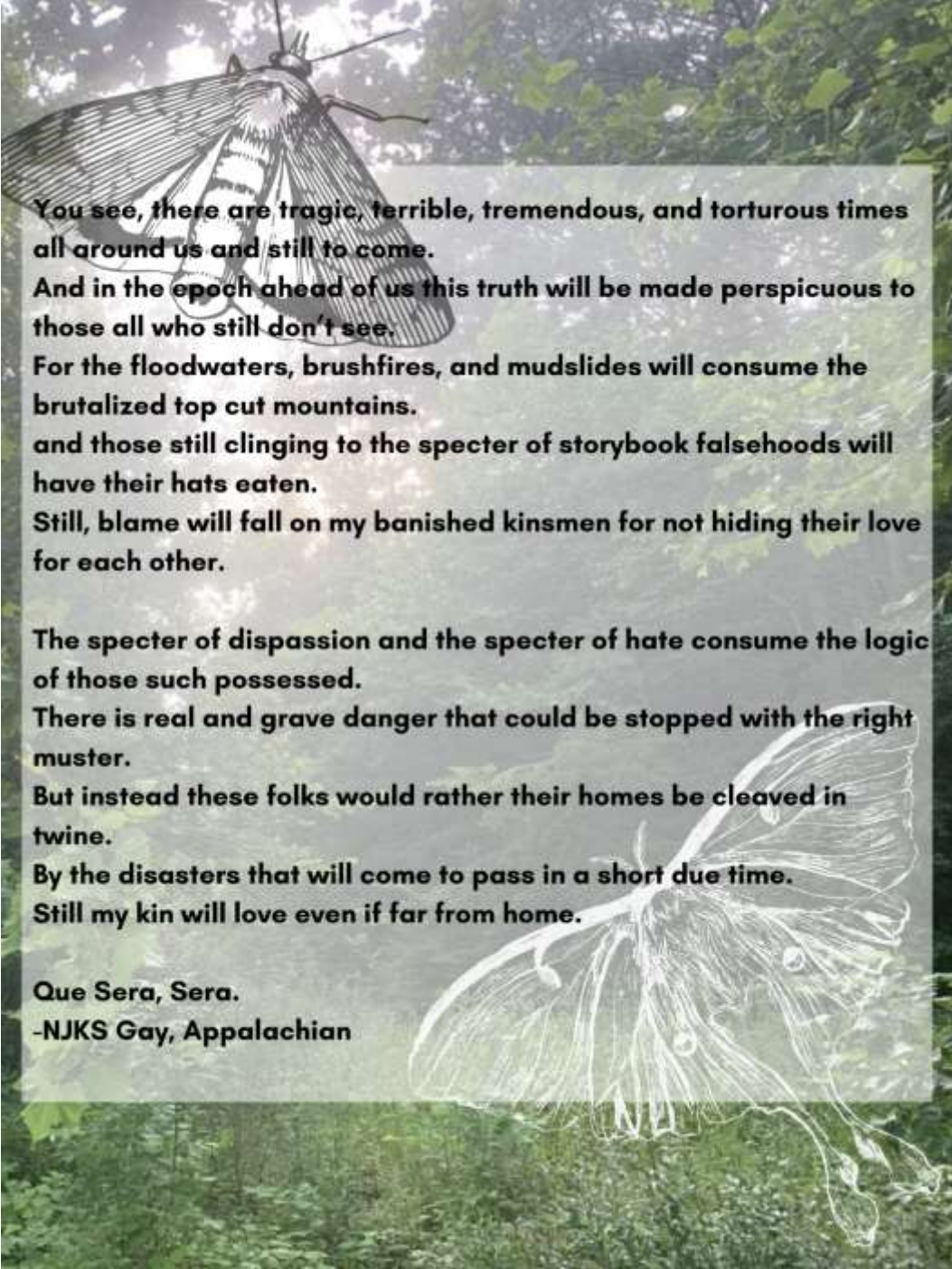




Two Ghosts in a Yellow Wood

**Back in a holler, in the foothills of my life, there lingers a specter.
There is a miasma in the air choking and fogging up my lungs.
A pollutant is churning in the water clouding it with mud.
These poisons are bubbling, roiling, condemning.
And no one seems quite aware.**

**However there is a more brutal and rancorous phantom
evermore standing in this thicket.
With a flaming tongue of burning words and dark works they
apparate in my midst.
And ignoring the real damnation all around it has turned its
passion into its truth.
For wielding its weapon of choice my kin become banished from
this land.
Now divested from our homeland my kinsmen and I are torn
asunder.**



**You see, there are tragic, terrible, tremendous, and torturous times
all around us and still to come.**

**And in the epoch ahead of us this truth will be made perspicuous to
those all who still don't see.**

**For the floodwaters, brushfires, and mudslides will consume the
brutalized top cut mountains.**

**and those still clinging to the specter of storybook falsehoods will
have their hats eaten.**

**Still, blame will fall on my banished kinsmen for not hiding their love
for each other.**

**The specter of dispassion and the specter of hate consume the logic
of those such possessed.**

**There is real and grave danger that could be stopped with the right
muster.**

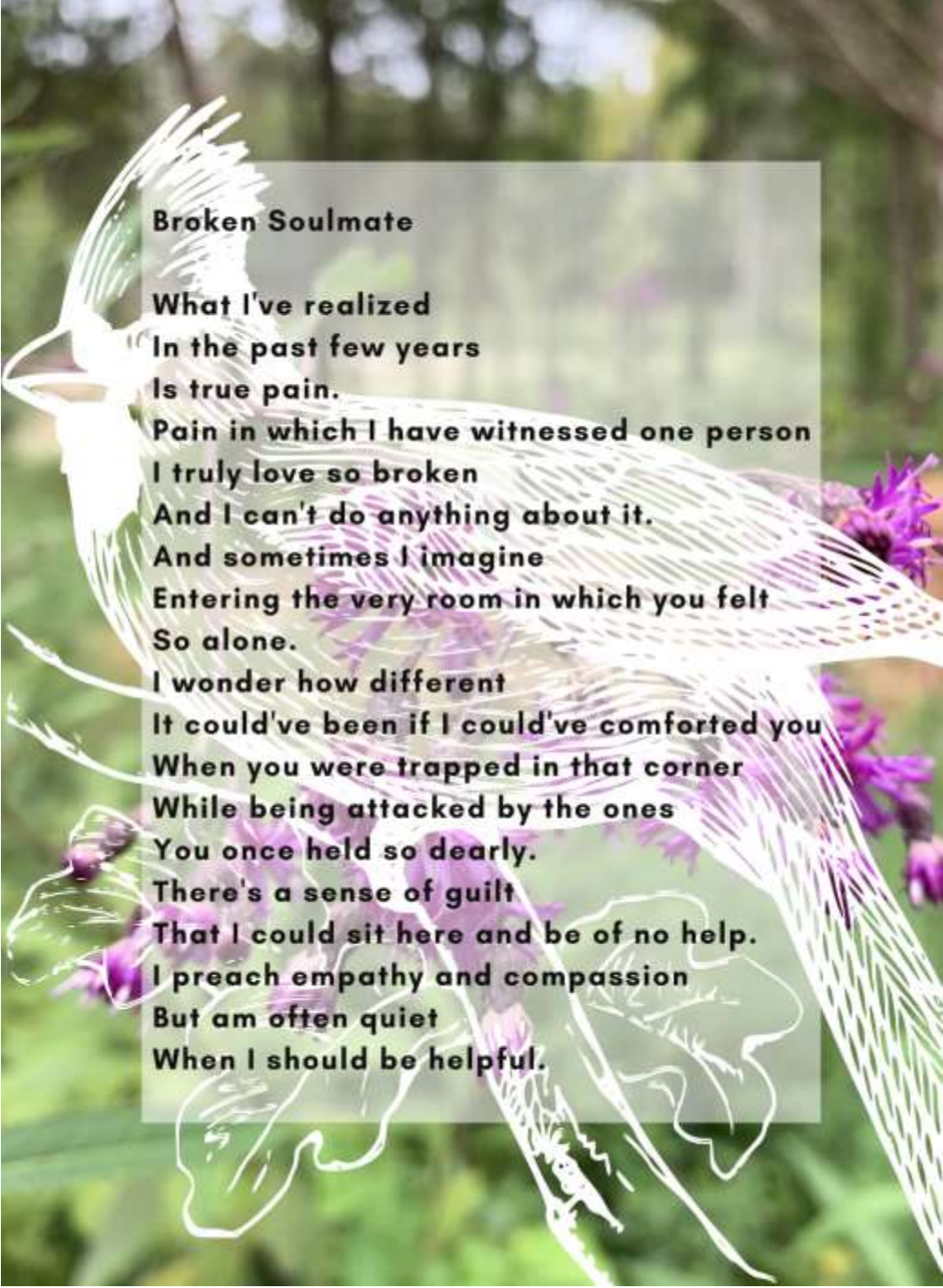
**But instead these folks would rather their homes be cleaved in
twine.**

By the disasters that will come to pass in a short due time.

Still my kin will love even if far from home.

Que Sera, Sera.

-NJKS Gay, Appalachian



Broken Soulmate

**What I've realized
In the past few years
Is true pain.**

**Pain in which I have witnessed one person
I truly love so broken
And I can't do anything about it.
And sometimes I imagine
Entering the very room in which you felt
So alone.**

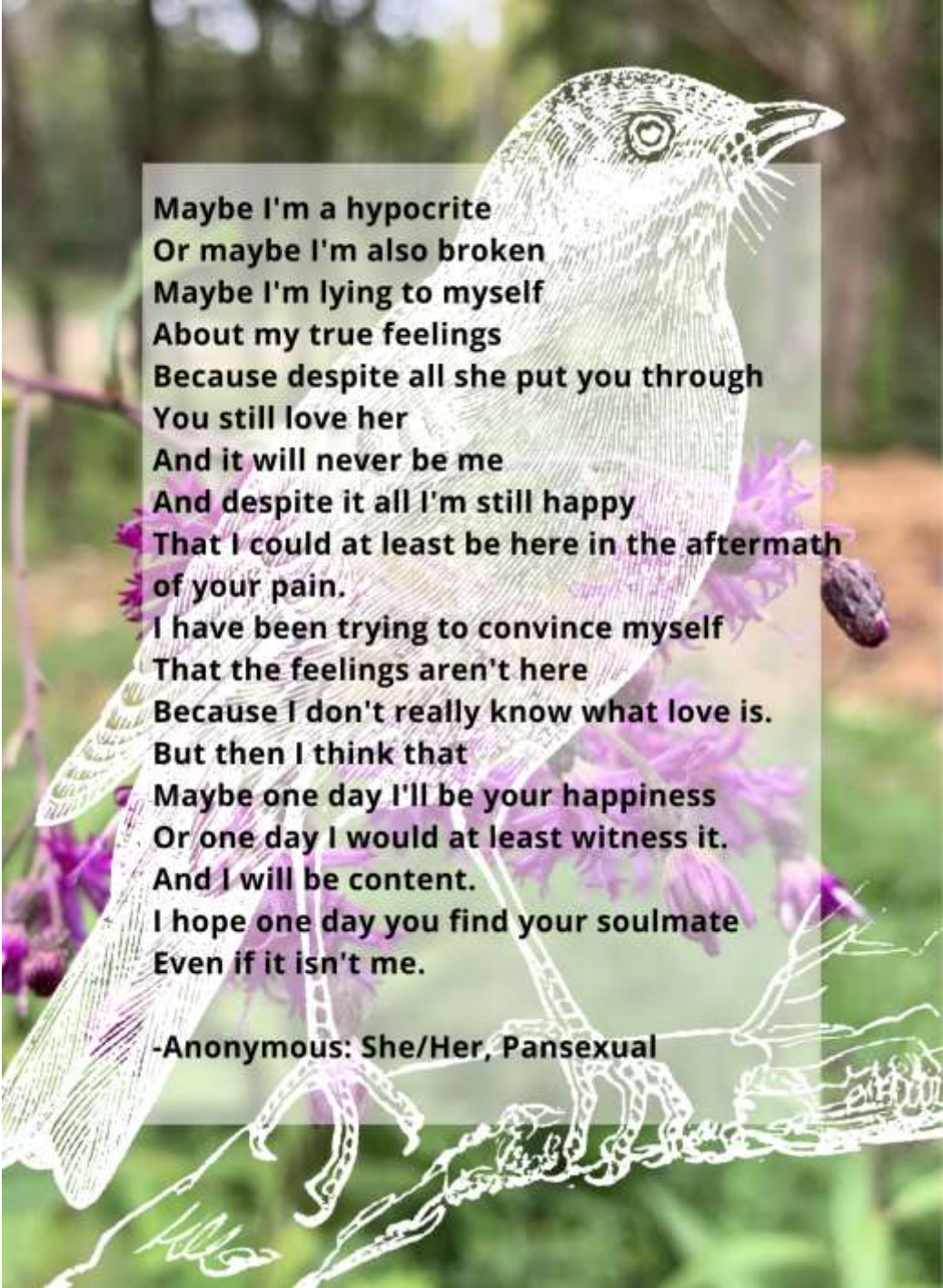
**I wonder how different
It could've been if I could've comforted you
When you were trapped in that corner
While being attacked by the ones
You once held so dearly.**

**There's a sense of guilt
That I could sit here and be of no help.
I preach empathy and compassion
But am often quiet
When I should be helpful.**



50.
all old souls
chant
be tender
walk soft
the bodies of our dead
lie here
wildflowers
red yellow white
adorn memory
pink purple blue
lost in a world of green
all have been promised
wedded to morning
that will soon come
tears fallen and gone
only faint traces
of grief remain
sorrow lingers
making soil soul deep
our weeping ground

bell hooks, *Appalachian Elegy:
Poetry and Place*



**Maybe I'm a hypocrite
Or maybe I'm also broken
Maybe I'm lying to myself
About my true feelings
Because despite all she put you through
You still love her
And it will never be me
And despite it all I'm still happy
That I could at least be here in the aftermath
of your pain.
I have been trying to convince myself
That the feelings aren't here
Because I don't really know what love is.
But then I think that
Maybe one day I'll be your happiness
Or one day I would at least witness it.
And I will be content.
I hope one day you find your soulmate
Even if it isn't me.**

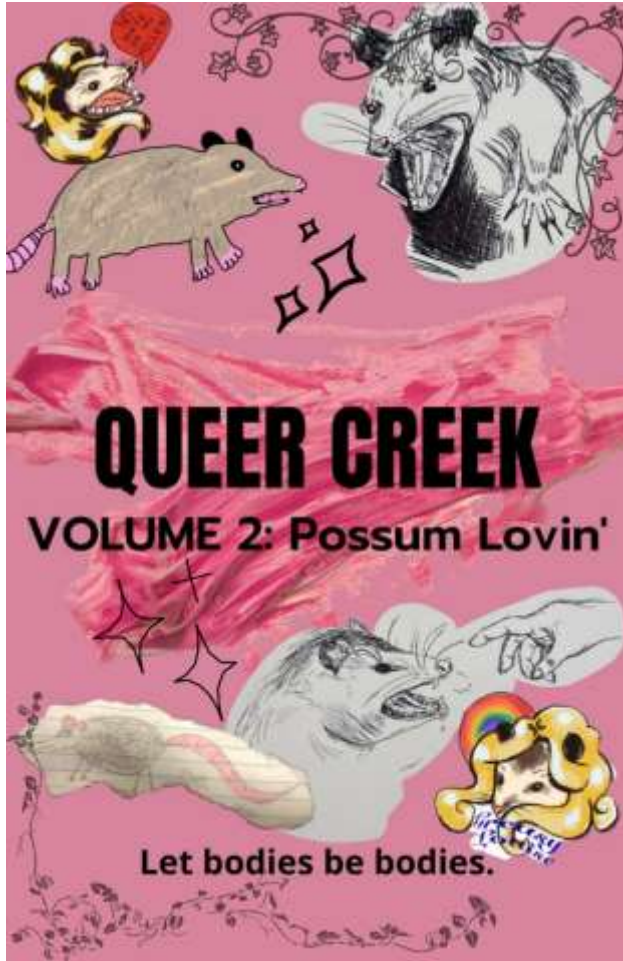
-Anonymous: She/Her, Pansexual

HELP US GROW A BETTER COMMUNITY: GET INVOLVED!

Countryqueers.com has a huge list of activists/organizations/groups that you can support through donations, through supporting queer Appalachian artists, and simply attending events to raise awareness about queer Appalachians.

Southern Poverty Law Center (splcenter.org) has a large list of resources and causes that they work to support in the south including LGBT+ Rights. They have launched multiple cases to help LGBT+ folks gain rights that all humans should have anyway. You can get involved through donating and even by sharing this information with those around you to build a more well-informed society.


The STAY project is dedicated to helping young people aged 14-30 in central Appalachia. The group has a focus on helping youth that are disproportionately affected by poverty in Appalachia. You can donate on their website (thestayproject.net) and if you are from central Appalachia you can apply to become a member with the opportunity to get funding for activism projects of your own.





Hello to all you muddy water stompin' queer folk. This is volume 2 of Queer Creek, a zine dedicated to uplifting queer Appalachian voices and perspectives. These pages are a space to open up and welcome queer Appalachian discourse and encourage progress towards a more enjoyable Appalachia for everyone. Appalachia is a diverse region of flora, fauna, and a whole lot of human folk. With great diversity comes a whole lotta lovin! We love the land and all her bumps and bruises, we love the world around us while weaving modernity into our roots, and we love one another fierce and passionate. So to all you readers hold your lovers and yourself extra tight for me ;)

-your rural queer goblin,
Greasy Louise





Banjo Girl
Lilli Shelton (she/her); Embroidery



will you catch me?

Corrin (they/them); Cyanotype Print—(calendula, condoms, icicles and assorted found objects)

How DuckTales Changed California Law Forever

Rebecca: Absurdist Comedy

Everyone loves to reference Scrooge McDuck diving into a swimming pool of gold coins but what you don't know is what happened behind the scenes.

First of all, everyone gets it wrong, it's not a swimming pool. What he dives into is his insanely large vault of money. So big it resembles a swimming pool. Semantics!

Regardless, don't know if you know this, but when you put a bunch of heavy gold coins together they make almost a very haaard, cement-like surface. There was no prop dive testing. This was way back in the 90s and sadly they just didn't care about that shit.

The first time they tried that take, Scrooge McDuck got knocked out so hard he had no idea how many nephews and great nephews he had, and frankly, neither did the crew. He was concussed for days! His beak was crack and mangled, he had to have reconstructive surgery on it AND his tiny glasses went directly into his right eye, millimeters from the cornea nearly blinding him. Half his face was scarred and de-feathered. And obviously, his neck was severely fucked up for life. To this day he is jealous of Joe Rogan for being able to self suck. The production of Ducktales was paused for six months due to his injuries & recovery time.

What everybody sees in the opening credits is the second take filmed after Scrooge recovered and after the props department created specially made lightweight paper coins. And the whole situation caused California to become the first state to outlaw diving into a vault and/or pool of real gold coins since they knew the opening credits would be influential to, truly, an entire generation.





Juniper Avalon (they/she/he)
Digital Painting

Some Awesome Possum Queer Appalachian organizations and artists to support:

- Slut Pill @slutpilltheband on Instagram
- Queer Kentucky @queerkentucky on Instagram
- Home Appalachia @homeappalachia on Instagram
- Thelma and the Sleaze @thelmaandthesleaze on Instagram

Along with the artists and queer folk featured in this issue:

- Lilli : @hillbillylilart on Instagram
- Corrin : @_which_witch on Instagram and @c_turkowitch on Twitter
- Rebecca : @brokebackbecca and @unpettypod on Instagram
- Juniper : @yowhatissuppeeps on Instagram

Keep it greasy out there.