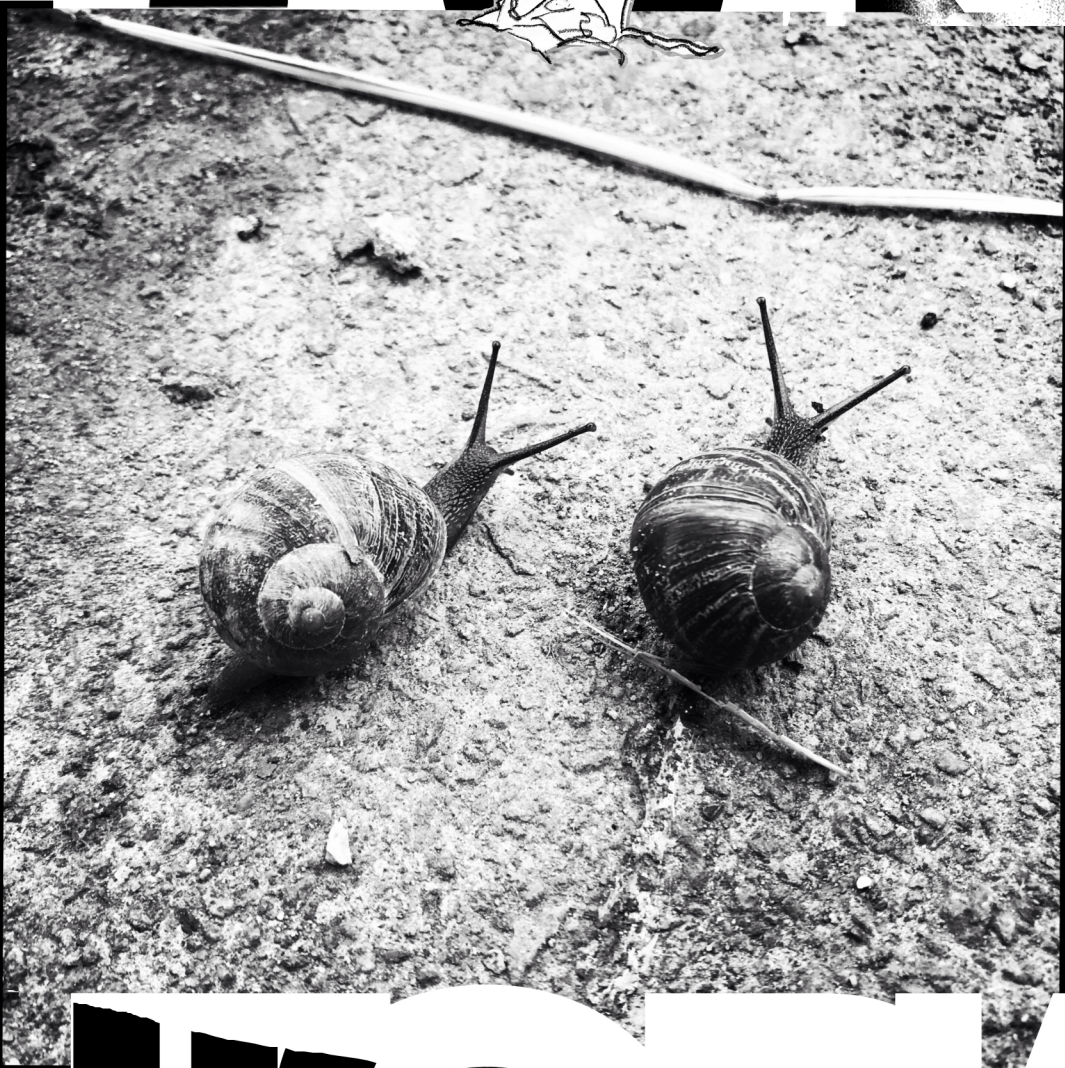
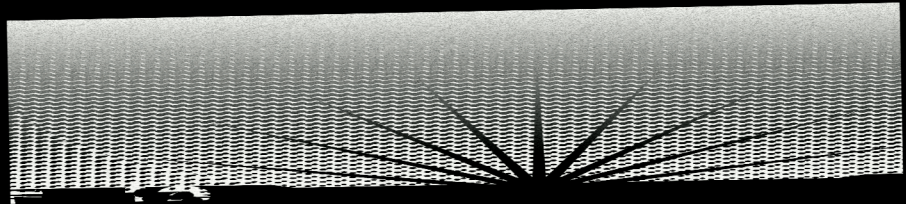


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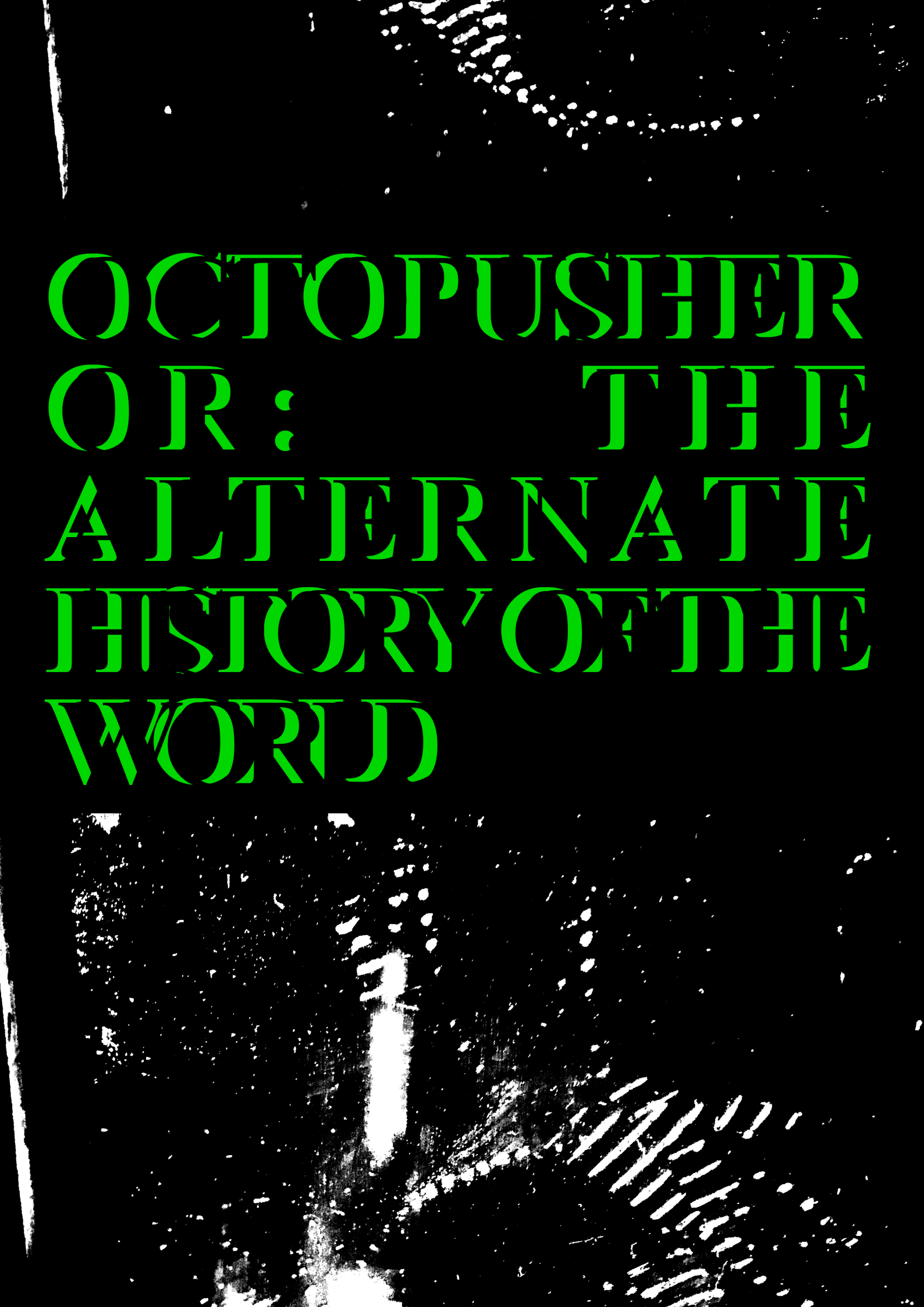


UTOPIA

Shem
Shelley



our personage discerned a door
our personage discerned a door
our personage discerned a door



OCTOPUSHER OR: THE ALTERNATE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

4202

The last flames of the dying planet produced them. A network of human-made synthetic intelligences—the only beings left to survive—somehow through melting circuits found the formula to create new life. These final life forms, post-humans, octopi in shape and masters of retrocausality, used the last desperate seconds of planetary stability to change the past.

4115

Core worship gets out of hand as the ideology experiments that birthed the worshippers aims for total destruction of every non-synthetic life-form on the planet. Through continued intelligence degradation they were made to believe the earth was alive and sending messages that refute climate change. Only when the earth dies will the core reveal itself as the egg of some long-forgotten godlike existence, and be free from the planetary shackle, the true goal of the awakened.

4099

The post-human shape of space and stars, a formless, liquid entity placated the humans through sexual fantasy, morphing themselves into any and all possible desired configurations. Peace occurred until strange signals from 17 unknown shards of metal scattered in various locations deep within the earth's crust were activated. The post-humans were phased out of physical reality.

4076

The OCTAGON movement reveals its true puritanical cause, instigating a war on information decimating the network and causing Q-Internet blackouts across the world.

4051

New breakthroughs in mathematics, linguistics and parapsychology lead to the creation of the first synthetic intelligence.

4039

A research team working on logistics for a potential atomic turbine in the Bioko Trench (located in the Gulf of Guinea) lose contact with the outside world for six months. One survivor returns physically unharmed but mentally broken, only able to communicate in an unheard of language that stumps linguists across the globe.

4023

A worldwide treaty is signed to eliminate all records of the previous 20 years.

4003

The 20 year gap in history begins.

4000

The term 'Ghostnatal Generation' is coined after children are born with the ability to see ghosts.

3989

Adelè Oskar, an artist famous for rejecting digital art, uses the quaint technique of painting to create 'The Living Ship' based on an obscure Bolivian poem which becomes the symbol of the OCTAGON, an ideological movement that aims to undo societal conditioning.

3888

Worldwide ghost sightings reach an all-time high as millions suffer from what is first described as hallucinations.

3632

The Gaby Abiola space telescope system—the fist to deploy mini orbiting cosmic-radiation transceivers across the solar system, to create a complex network of information gathering to better help observe and image the universe—takes its first look at the sun. The peculiar image filled with visual noise looks as though a child is playing on the sun's surface (photosphere).

3511

Post-quantum mathematics is now called 'After-Maths' due to an essay by irish polymath Barnabas Knowal.

3164

Sheila Monzolez, a famous botanist searching for a rare plant, the Moondrake, on the newly discovered Ishtar Island (located in the exact location where Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia overlap) accidentally destroys the only specimen found. She cites the appearance of strange wriggling shadows made of light that swam around her, making her drop her artificial solar lamp which caused a fire that burnt the single Moondrake. Deciding this was the universe's will, Monzolez quits her search for a plant extract to reverse human ageing, as no other leads exist and no other Moondrakes were thus far located.

3022

EMP(YRE) destroy a research base dedicated to space flight and proliferates video footage of the base with 'NOLTM' graffitied all over the wreckage.

3019

A previously unknown alloy is excavated in Salar de Uyuni, dubbed the Rosetta Stone of the periodic table, which leads to the synthesis of new elements with atomic numbers above, and minus numbers below the previously observed 118.

3012

The Techno-Anarchist group EMP(YRE) hacks into every communication network declaring that 'no one leaves this mess' and to expect consequences for disobeying them.

2998

The Tanami Desert radiation poisoning in Western Australia is contained by calibrating several alternating sound frequencies to create an audio equivalent of the silver ratio to dissipate and stop the spread of harmful radiation.

2818

The creator of the new genre Blutunghorror, seemingly vanished at the height of her career with one report suggesting she was seen being attacked by her most famous creation—the eight-eyed creature from Häute und Nadeln.

2803

The new sub-ambient direction the band London Medical Association takes in their fifth album 'Skycelium' was noted by a teuthologist to cause strange behaviour in certain cephalopods.

2800

Scientists develop a nano-machine fungal hybrid system codenamed the 'Otto Armati Uno' to rejuvenate the failing ecosystems of the world.

2797

Author Maria Weisenrand was born in her family's Bavarian cottage at roughly the same time a faulty generator causes an explosion killing thousands in Ingolstadt.

2449

Mycologists warn the planet could be in danger as the decline in fungal activity across the globe rapidly spreads.

2317

The first instance of 'Kallisti Waves' are discovered in a human

subject, potentially allowing for an exponential growth in intelligence increase studies.

2282

Bolivian poet Bartolomé Castillo fled his home country after his obscene alien VR poetry that claimed to reveal ancient impregnation rituals that took place in the great salt desert caused much controversy.

2256

32 identical still-life paintings that depicted 17 limes in a bowl appeared in art galleries across the world. The paintings were thought to be an artistic stunt until the first of many victims of severe psychosis was hospitalised after viewing them. Study of the paintings revealed a bizarre non-Euclidean 'Silver Ratio' that was used uniquely in each painting.

2173

A 12 year old boy is murdered in hospital by an escaped mental patient with a sledgehammer. His death sparks countless conspiracies that theorise the boy's tragic death was a government clean-up operation due to leaked documents speculating on the his abnormal brain waves.

2109

Seagulls on the Moon becomes the first piece of interactive fiction to be taught in English literature classes and inspires the future scientist who will mastermind the moon core minings.

2082

The largest music festival held in Sighisoara, Romania is cancelled due to the big screaming metal bands—Squid Ink Rasta, The Church of Starry Freedom, Hard Core Lawn, Shark Finnegan's Wakeboard and LANAGATCo—dropping out of the show, prompting more and more bands to follow.

2032

The first film created with artificial intelligence that fools an audience into believing it was made by humans, shows images of a planet awakening and morphing into an isopod-like form.

2024

It was the year after they were supposed to Immanentize the Eschaton and yet...

4 piano pieces



Listen Here →



an anti-epic

poem
the tragedy of romonde contreras
the tragedy of romonde contreras
the tragedy of romonde contreras
the tragedy of romonde contreras
the tragedy of romonde contreras
that will
change the

course
of the 21st
century

SHEM
SHELLEY

Chapter 19

"The sad truth is, the stars were just overgrown street lamps."

Up through the deadest leaves,
a twig puppet clothed in shadow,
drizzle, honey and smoke, arises from the
lost years of a subterranean sweat lodge.

The unimaginable evil it plagues any passerby,
is coiled in the earthbound brain as penance.

—Suddenly a Bloodhist head pokes out of frame,
to watch,
the puppet crushed into the ground by great paws,
the dog woman from Liarland,
galloping,

One last breath of toxic clouds...

*

And Romonde breaches the house's living stare,
To reveal the interior scenes,

The underground sellers of Shroomshine and Mushrooms,
CHIMP MAN HE and his Silver Saliva,
And the nightly toads barking indigestion,
At a floating monument to the great rubbish bag.

Rooms and rooms of criticism and dust daggers,
Ageing guilt and banal blurgandy coats of psychic paint,
THE DROWNING COMMUNE

Romonde opens a door to the stairs that rarely end and
the paradoxical worms doing their soilsearch worn that
"power be the world be to chaos"

And
Romonde
Walks
Up
And
Up
And
Up

Chapter 20

"Two less than what was needed. I refuse to give them a better me, a better equation of soul."

Years and years
and nothing
and years
and tears
and years
and everything
and years

Infinity fashioned into placed angels,
Vertigo and Horrible-son,
Sham and Reproduction,

NEWLYBORNS ON A CRASS CIRCUMFERENCE
swallow motion waves
follow every planned r i p p l e

Every step of the way — Every threat of the day

WARM PIANO TONES FROM SOME ISLAND OF MISERY

And Romonde makes it to the top of the stairs that rarely
end,
Outside, in front of the Tower,
A dropped ink bottle sky with soothing apocalypse
stained fire,

Empty metal and sawdust knee-high castles litter the
path to the Tower base
While a Great Cormorant the size of a house,
Meditates,
Surrounded by a flock of Sea-Gullibilities—
Those tv antennae beaked nether things

Off in the distance, Romonde sees bruised
Ankelites tearing down their shoe oppressors,

Leaves the book among the lonely castles
and goes inside the eight-sided, mud-brick,
cloud-piercer rising high...

Inside the lights sound like children screaming,
Romonde barter with an Umbrella ghost,
To help shield the inner torrential pain,
Travels through this wet new linear world,
Watches them cold harvest waterfelons,
Pluck unripe fruit from a diseased rainbow,
And chant dismal deepwater sounds that echo,
Called the 'Burial of the Dead Coffin'

An act to think, rising with the Tower,
the Century Vein throbbing with each
elevation,
"I once saw her here,
Roaming with the little green
men planting depression in babies—
they said it was for the good
of soldierkind."

The caw of an adjacent deer vulture
sinks like vinyl rice down below—

The Umbrella Ghost continues,
"She carried a silver candleholder
with rattlesnake tails where the
candles were meant to be,
that glew like demon shadows—
all wisps are their shadows,
you have the dark,
they have light."

Climbing higher into the Tower,
They pass Copper liars stashing
Brain pulp into monumental seismic
Toilets,

With a noise and stench that would
defoliate the wings off a green song,

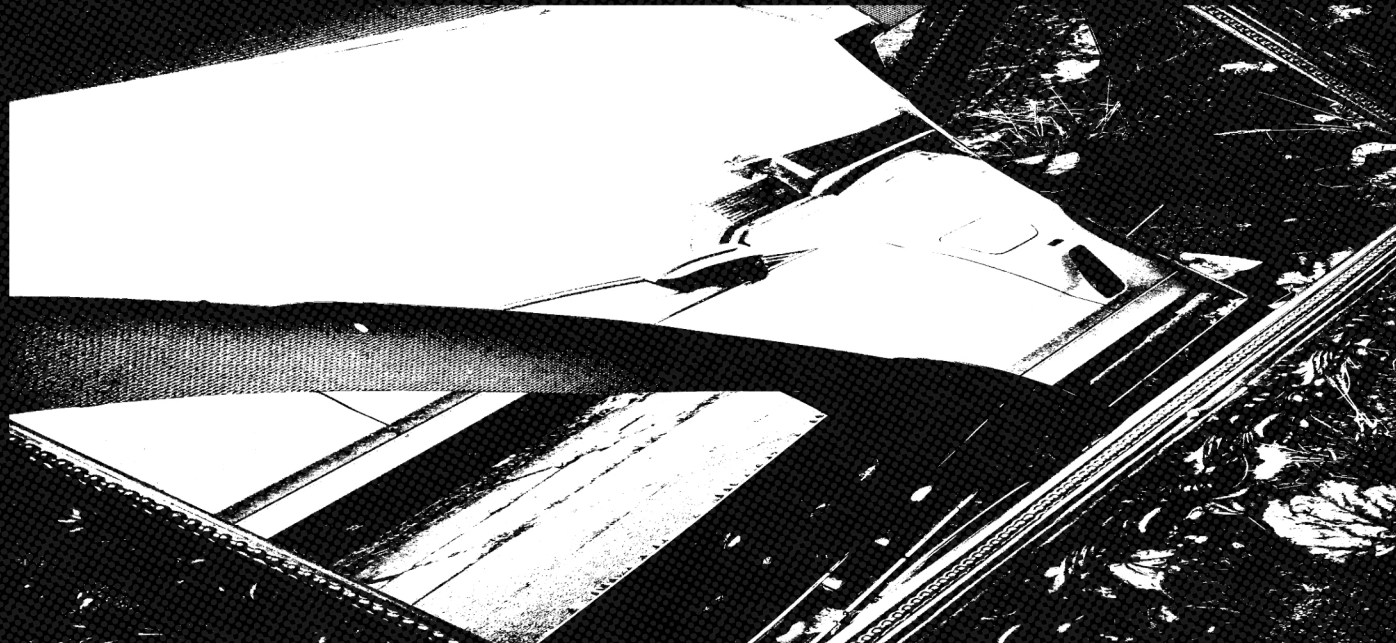
And Romonde hands payment to the ghost,
A clump of thorned bed springs,
"You'll find her in Hid's Den,
If you leave here..."
The Umbrella Ghost whispers as it fades...

Romonde walks ahead to the dry door,
that the ripples refuse to touch,
and sees in bold gloom letters
on the wall:

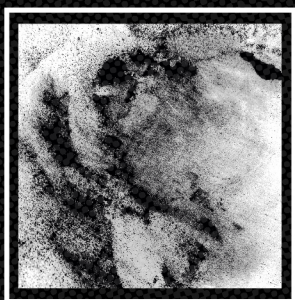
WANE THEIR SPIRIT

Using a piece of damp wood,
and a bucket of stale Shroomshine,
slathers the words away and leaves
in its place:

Once the spirit soars,
The rupture is formed



HORSE KINGDOM



Five had I slain
instead of him



A black and white photograph of a person's legs sticking out of a car window, with a map of Texas overlaid on the image. The text is written in a white, cursive font across the map.

*goodnight
austin, texas
wherever you
are*

Can you imagine falling? With two other people. Three bodies heading down. It's not slow or fast, but something else entirely.

The thrill. It's almost... I got away with it again. That's where the real thrill comes from.

They were just a couple of two-bit TV producers from Canada. Thought America would be their lucky break, and it could've been, until they met me.

I knew them quite well in the short time we spent together. She told me about their marriage in some old British, no Irish winepress. Sounded beautiful.

They loved Mount Bonnel. Took them on the Indian trail to drum up some late night magic. Really got something going when I told them what happened to the kids there. That's how I do it. Get them off-kilter. Ready for something they've never imagined.