

## april hill writes

April's poetry is not only out of this world, but so is April! April chooses to write and draw quirky, often insightful pieces, as a ghost – keeping any identifying features a secret.

I have never said publically who I am, or what I look like and, at first, I was going to wear a mask or draw images with a mask. But I realised you can still tell much about a person under a mask. I wanted to be more covered, so I decided a sheet would work perfectly. I cut some holes in the sheet and became a ghost. I wanted to remain anonymous as I enjoy being able to write words people fall in love with, without knowing who wrote them. It allows me to be completely honest. Being able to separate myself from age, sex, race, class plus many other categories – and still have people find themselves in every piece, speaks to these biases we have created as a world.

What I can tell you is I live in a place where the air isn't that good to breathe all the time. It gets very warm and very, very cold. It is a place where the people are either really nice or don't care for you at all. I live where life seems to begin, end, and begin again. However, I am grateful for being here as it allows me to see the world in a way I never would have from anywhere else. When I'm not writing or illustrating, I enjoy working with people who need help, encouraging them as much as I can. I like reading, watching movies and shows and playing music. I also enjoy writing and creating and having weird and wonderful ideas.

I have always written phrases of thoughts and feelings down and doodled in the margins of books and on scraps of paper. In time I really began to focus on what I was creating and turned them into these little pieces of my life. I started writing and illustrating poems publicly about four years ago and people have reacted rather kindly. I do not go out of my way to bother people with my work and most of those who have found what I say have needed to find it. People seem to thank me for what I do but I am simply trying to say the things we are all thinking. I hope to impact people by being able to put words to the feelings they never knew they had.

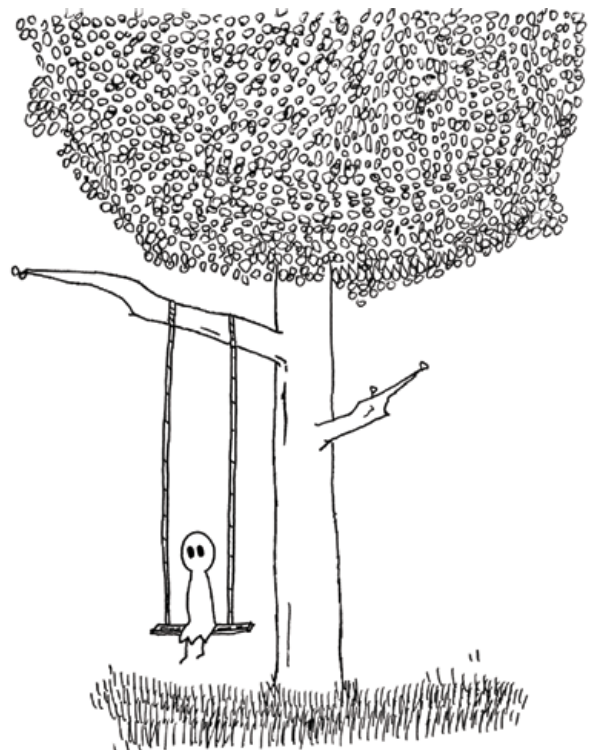


EVEN IF EVERYTHING I THINK I WANT

COMES TRUE,

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

WHAT THEN DO I DO?



I'M NOT SORRY

I WON'T GROW UP

TO BE BORING.

Bit by bit I have developed my style. I knew it had to be handwritten, raw and something I could do day by day. At the beginning I released many pieces of just writing, but about a year in I began adding a doodle to each piece. I still don't think I can draw, but I definitely got better at doodling over time. So the doodling has increased as has my confidence in how it helps tell a story.

That's what I love about poetry, how I am able to say so much with so little.

I usually begin with writing, unless it is purely an illustration piece. About once a

week I develop the whole idea at once and it works out perfectly. Many things have influenced my work – music, art, books, movies, television, talking to people, studying the past and anticipating the future. I try and let the simple things affect me because I think that's how we connect. I find inspiration in the simple things – in a beetle, or an apple tree. There are things in this gigantically simple planet that are so drastically deep, and I like to take the time to make the most of those moments.

I recently published my own book titled *A Slow Fall Into Weirdness* which was an extremely rewarding experience. It was

an incredible feeling – finally being able to see the many monsters who I have grown with over the past four years and being able to physically hold something I worked on for so long. I hope to publish my second almost-completed poetry book I have been working on this past year and hopefully the three novels I have written. I just want to be able to create for the rest of my life.

I say – make art you enjoy. You need to be your own biggest fan and enjoy what you are making the most. Never create based on what others will want to see and make sure to create things you think are cool, voicing your opinions in the same way.