

shift MAGAZINE

Change gears. And maybe change your mind. 2019





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“Face” by Joseph Pilkinton



Great Unexpectedations

By: Jackie Saison

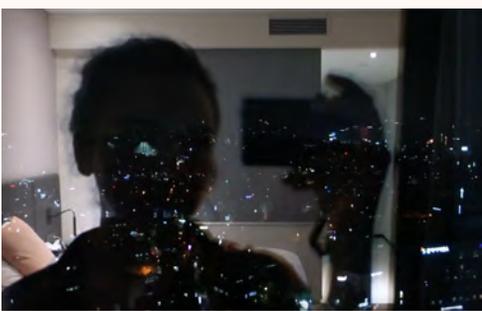


This past summer, I had the opportunity to study abroad in South Korea with the TNCis program. It was an amazing experience that introduced me to new challenges as a student and to the amazing culture and traditions of South Korea!

I am a generally reserved person and it usually takes me a while to warm up to a new situation and to new people.

However, this trip took me out of my comfort zone and forced me not only to adapt to the country I was in, but also to depend on the strangers I took the trip with. Once I got out of my head about being insecure with myself, I was able to fully enjoy my opportunity.

Whenever I felt any anxiety I would repeat to myself that “this is for me.” Even when I was feeling uncomfortable and nervous, the words reminded me to remain in the moment and enjoy my experiences fully, because I was doing this trip for me. With that mindset, I was able to leave South Korea a new person with lots of wonderful new memories of my excursions and of the amazing people I met.



For any one considering going on a TNCis trip, just go for it! This is an amazing opportunity not all colleges offer. Plus, there is an incredible scholarship opportunity, without which I would not have been able to go to South Korea. If anxiety is holding you back, just take a deep breath and remember that you don't know the full potential you have inside, until you are forced to show it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DflfT41VX6E>

FALL

ohhh... it seems that my life is now coming to an end...



...it was a good life; and now I can rest peacefully...



...oh! so this is what it's like... no pain, just complete rest...



... huh, I thought there'd be more to it... but I could get-



Jackie Saison

(Talent) Agent Among Us

By: Kevin Shah



At the beginning of the semester, I noticed a sharply dressed woman in the front row of my media class. I wondered why she was dressed so nicely for school, then class began, and my attention was diverted. A couple weeks later, the professor asked this woman to share why she had missed class the week before.

She explained that while the rest of us had been in media class, she was on the set of the Home Shopping Network (HSN) in Florida with Lady Antebellum's Hillary Scott. She was representing Scott's clothing line, LaBellum. After a long day on the HSN set, she

had to prepare for the Today Show where she accompanied country music artist, Rory Feek, who was promoting the release of his new children's book, "The Cow Said Neigh!"

The sharply dressed woman in the front row is Kathy Armistead Olen, owner of Atticus Brand Partners, an agency she started nearly eight years ago in Brentwood. In this role she represents national brands to create partnerships in all forms with music artists, including Rascal Flatts, Jason Aldean, and Hillary Scott of Lady Antebellum – an impressive roster of talent. Her company represents national brands that use famous spokespersons. Her client roster has included Bridgestone, Bud Light, General Motors, AT&T, Hostess Brands, and State Farm Insurance. Olen is an extremely busy music industry executive, working with famous people and famous brands. So, why is she taking classes at Columbia State?

Surprisingly, Olen's impressive resume does not include a college degree. Early in her marriage she chose to be a stay-at-home mother of four, forgoing college. Before closing deals for country music stars and big time brands, she was closing deals for the local PTA.

Her fundraising skills were noticed, leading to a Division Director position with the March of Dimes. That role led to a unique gig as a popular local rock radio character, the “Angry Feminist,” then to a position as a Promotions Director at another local Classic Rock radio station.

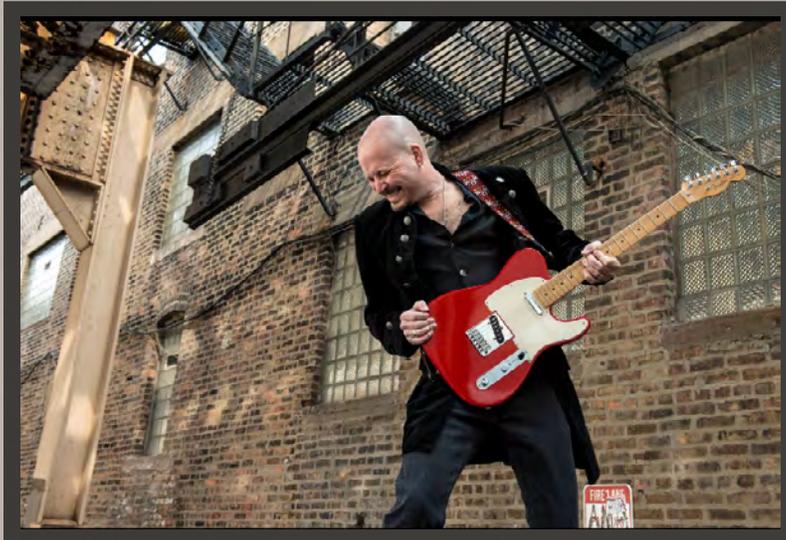
From there, she moved on to become Director of Marketing and Sponsorship Sales for Nashville’s Starwood Amphitheater for many years. She then accepted an opportunity to move on to the same position as the first Director of Marketing & Sponsorship Sales for the Nashville (now Bridgestone) Arena. Success at each job earned her bigger and better opportunities.

Now Olen is taking on the opportunity to be a college student, thanks in part to TN Reconnect. “It’s a personal goal of mine to earn a college degree,” said Olen. She said she is inspired by her four children, who have all earned college degrees. Olen finds the classroom experience to be personally fulfilling and adds, “I’m learning something new every day in my classes and I purposely wanted to have the classroom experience rather than online courses. All of my instructors at Columbia State have been so encouraging and supportive, and I’m thankful for the TN Reconnect program’s flexibility, making it possible for me to attend Columbia State classes around my full time career schedule.”

I reached out to Olen for this interview because of my personal aspiration to be a sports agent. In a short, 15-minute conversation, she gave me a good indication of what it will take to achieve my goal, and generously offered to help me, if I pursue the field. As I reflect on this experience, I realize this important tip I would like to share. When you are in class, you should strive to learn more than the material on the syllabus. Take time to learn about those sitting in the class with you. It may just turn out to be more valuable to your life than the grade.

For the Record: Vinyl's Back

By: Olivia Holt



Scott Holt's background in the music industry and passion for entertaining has given him an enhanced perspective as a recording artist and touring musician as well as a local business owner. These experiences have given him special

insight into the consumer side of the entertainment industry.

Scott Holt began his career in music at the age of 20, touring with GRAMMY award winning Blues legend, Buddy Guy. Traveling the world, recording in world-class studios, working with legendary musicians, and meeting and developing relationships with icons of the industry, Holt has made his career with his guitar and his voice. In 2017 his interest in a local landmark pushed him to go into business with a partner and purchase Variety Records in Columbia, TN.

This small, independent record store, which has been in business since 1965, has proven to be a unique insight for Holt into the consumer side of the entertainment industry. Variety Records has been a community staple since the 1960s with many local residents having fond memories of buying records there and standing in line for concert tickets, (something that over time has vanished with sources like Ticketmaster and the internet).

As a store that sells both new and previously owned records, Variety sees a diverse group of customers that believe in the value of vinyl.

Holt, as an artist and now, also local business owner explains that “As an artist you have and in many respects are expected to have a singular vision, as a retail business owner you are required by the nature of your job to service all visions.” The once popular platform for music, vinyl, has currently shown a tremendous resurgence. Vinyl records outsold CD’s by a substantial margin for the last two years. Many new artists are releasing their work on vinyl as well as CD’s and streaming. “It’s more costly to produce vinyl but ‘sonically’ it’s so much more rewarding” said Holt.

Holt is a proponent of vinyl but so is his business partner, Keith Throneberry. “As a record store owner the resurgence of vinyl is certainly a benefit to our business. Working with a musician gives us a unique insight into the dynamics and nuances of the consumer’s wants and needs” said Throneberry.

As vinyl continues to outsell all other formats, this is not only an indicator for the health of the recording industry but also a reflection of the tastes of the consumer. Charlie Pignato is an employee at Variety Records with a long history in the record store business. “ I find that our customers are knowledgeable about music and are buying more for the listening experience rather than simply collecting. Working with a musician and a DJ as the owners, it’s pleasure to work in a place that has such a strong musical base” said Pignato.

Holt thinks that, as an owner, a love of music is necessary to running a successful business. “If you’re not a music fan, why would you be in this business?” asks Holt. As the commercial upswing continues, Variety Records is looking at a healthy horizon.

Game Review: League of Legends

By: Troy Driscoll



Throughout the last few decades, a new form of entertainment has landed into our lives and into our homes: video games. Video games have been a way to escape reality and delve into a new and fun imaginary world, full of characters, monsters, and imaginary creatures of the sorts. One of these games, *League of Legends*, really captured my at-

attention and I play it quite a bit to this day. *League of Legends* is a massive online battle arena type video game, otherwise called a MOBA. For many years, it has been the number one video game in the entire world, boasting a very impressive 27 million active players daily and over 65 million active players monthly. Only recently has the new game, *Fortnite*, surpassed *League of Legends* as the number one game in the world.

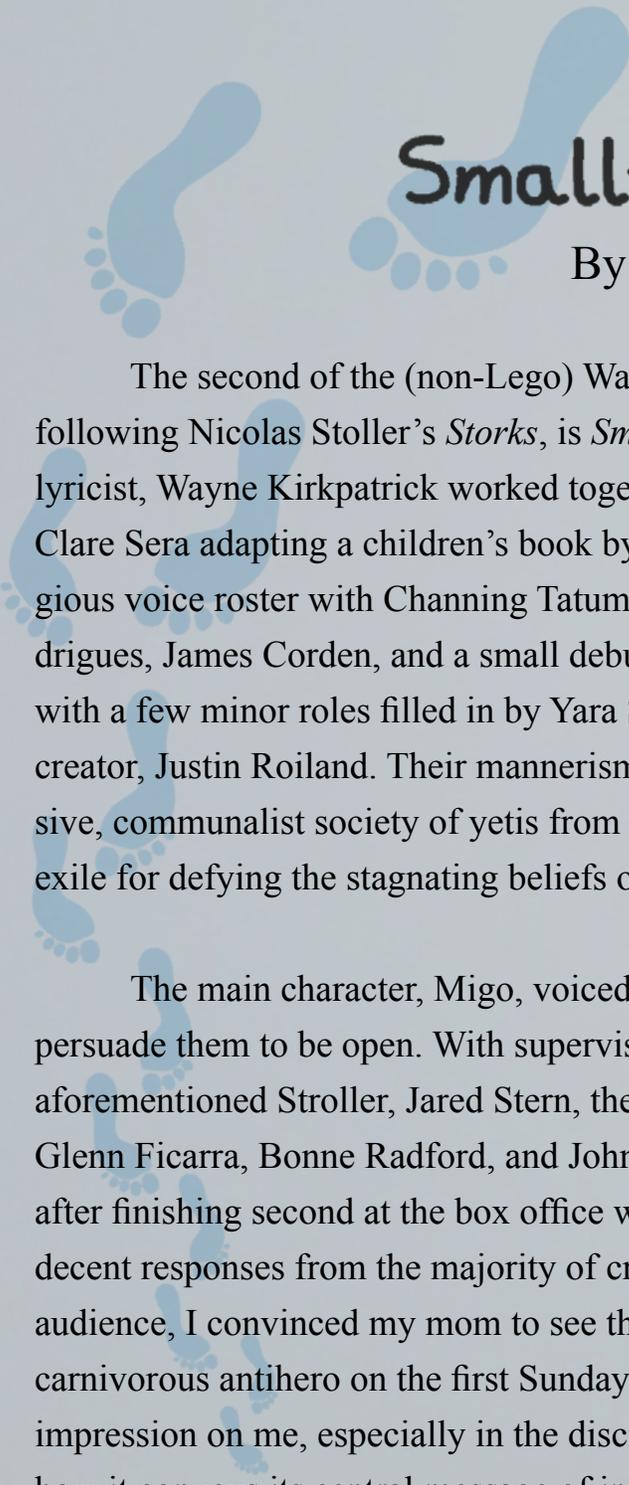
Another really amazing aspect of *League of Legends* is its fanbase, which is massive. From cosplay of the many characters in the game, to art, and even music written by the many adoring fans, *League of Legends* has definitely captured the hearts of millions of people around the globe. But many veteran players of the game are leaving the community. But why are they quitting? What is making the game “un-fun” or “not worth playing” for them anymore? The biggest reason: toxicity. *League of Legends* can definitely brag about its community - how big and awesome that community is. However, the whole community is not happy go lucky. In fact, in more than 90% of games there is going to be a player – yes, another person somewhere in their home, on their computer - flaming you, or insulting you. The problem with this game that many people will go unpunished for this.

The developer of the game, Riot Games, cannot always monitor every little word in every little game, leaving many toxic players to slip through the cracks. This, in turn, can ruin relationships as well as the overall fun and enjoyable experience. I personally have fought verbally with my friends over this game - OVER A GAME!

It is ridiculous how much this game can just take over your attitude and invite you to say mean things to someone over something that happened in the game. Furthermore, this attitude does not always stay in the game. Sometimes some of your verbal language and physical attitude might leak into the real world, and you'll start seeing REAL people as more of players in a video game.

Another big issue with *League of Legends*, is the ranking system. Who doesn't love showing off how good they are at something? We as humans, gamers specifically, are very competitive and we like to brag when we accomplish something overcome the odds. *League of Legends* capitalizes on this. In the game there is a ranking system, with eight ranks from Challenger, the best to Iron, the worst. Each rank is further divided into five divisions. Sixty percent of all players reside in the middle ranks, but what does that mean?

Basically, the ranking system is a way to put others down, for being a lower rank. Players who are at a higher level will often say the players under them are "trash" or "suck at the game." This desire to fit in and get better often makes people play for many hours at a time to try and improve their standing. For some players this becomes an obsession, which can be problematic. But in spite of toxic players, *League of Legends* is still a game filled with fun moments, competitive gameplay and achievements that will keep you and millions around the world entertained for years to come.



Smallfoot Review

By: Ethan Harrell

The second of the (non-Lego) Warner Animation Group's animation releases, following Nicolas Stoller's *Storks*, is *Smallfoot*. Siblings, Karey (a Katzenberg protégé) and, lyricist, Wayne Kirkpatrick worked together for direction and scripting with Jason Reisig and Clare Sera adapting a children's book by cartoonist, Segio Pablos . This film features a prestigious voice roster with Channing Tatum, Zendaya, rapper Common, Danny DeVito, Gina Rodriguez, James Corden, and a small debut role by veteran hooper, LeBron James Senior, along with a few minor roles filled in by Yara Shahidi, Jimmy Tatro, Eli Henry, and, *Rick and Morty* creator, Justin Roiland. Their mannerisms and versatile skills carry on the synopsis of a reclusive, communalist society of yetis from whom an offspring of an associate of the super faces exile for defying the stagnating beliefs of the community.

The main character, Migo, voiced by Tatum, attempts to stay true to his thoughts and persuade them to be open. With supervision from the raunchy Lord Miller duo, the aforementioned Stroller, Jared Stern, the director, and the author of the book himself, along with Glenn Ficarra, Bonne Radford, and John Requa, the Warner Bros' picture is currently running after finishing second at the box office with \$42 million as of the last week of September. With decent responses from the majority of critics and a beloved "A-" grade from the general audience, I convinced my mom to see this feature instead of the overrated tent-pole featuring a carnivorous antihero on the first Sunday of this October, and, the movie. *Smallfoot* left an impression on me, especially in the disciplines of visual arts and layout, the voice delivery, and how it conveys its central message of integrity and adaptiveness.

It was from the passion of the passion and attention of the computer-graphic artists of the Canadian-based Image Works (ironically owned by one of the Warner Bro's rivals) that the expertise of their home-grown kits (along with borrowing engines from Autodesk and the Foundry) seamed together optically appealing settings of a Cloudy Everest-like mountain top with a winter valley and Eastern valley resting at its base.

Each yeti is precisely designed; just a few somewhat clumped strands of fur shout as much detail as their looney personas and hasty actions. These details emulate the powerful gestures of their portrayers while in the booth. The yetis, like the sole human role in the plot, further mesh well in the lighting emitting from the artificial sunset. Continuing on from the characters efficiently casted by Ruth Lambert, the film also showcases decent growth arcs for a too forth-right story with tight continuity.

Overall, *Smallfoot* has proven itself to be a step-up from *Storks* by providing a refreshing change from the marketing dominance of the Lego cinematic franchise in Warner Bros. Although the melodies and morals are often copied and hammered into my brain, Common's singled-out rap and Niall Horan's tie-in are sole exceptions. The verbal humor and screenwriting are modestly juicy with several lampshades and gags tickling my throat for a minute. The prevalent symbolism made the former unnoticed.

That pathological appeal, coupled with the credible performances, complement the character dynamics. The slapsticks, the detailed, but stylistic visuals, balanced palettes, and uncanny storyboarding kept my attention on the silver screen and feelings invested in the catharsis. It was enough for my Mom to enjoy, having called off purchasing stubs for the carnivorous anti-hero (whose archetype I sometimes enjoy) to follow the struggles of a similarly humungous, but jovial outcast. As we exited the usual Malco Cinema in Smyrna, my mom and I reflected on how we praise movies for celebrating the mundane aspects and challenging brambles of society. As evidenced by *Smallfoot's* timing with the current political climate, it made me halt and briefly dissect or read my mentality. I circled any outdated nonsense that requires abandon, sharpening into rationality.

Antichrist Superstar Review

By: Sam Lindsay

“When you are suffering know that I have betrayed you.” This phrase harkens back to occultist Aleister Crowley’s, *The Book of Law*. It would go on to be adopted by musician Brian Hugh Warner also known as Marilyn Manson, the Antichrist Superstar. Formed in 1989, as Marilyn Manson and the Spooky Kids, drawing its name from Marilyn Monroe and Charles Manson, playing off of the obsession of celebrity culture in the United States, they as a rock band developed an image that crossed an over the top cartoonish art style with satanic imagery. This campy nature would garner a following after the release of their first few albums on cassette. The accelerated popularity of the group eventually became noticed by Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails fame. Reznor would go on to sign Manson onto his then existing Nothing Records and produce some of Manson’s later projects most notably 1994’s *Portrait of an American Family* and the *Smells like Children* EP which would further cement the group’s overall cheesiness.

These attempts at a breakthrough to the mainstream however proved to be unfortunate and would cause Manson to ditch the band’s current façade in favor of a much darker entity. A rock-opera that would bring a dark industrial soundscape, religiously fueled lyricism, and a concept with a bleak storyline all with a provocative name in the midst of a boiling culture war. Gone were the days of the Spooky Kids, the *Antichrist* was born.

The album opens with the already infamous phrase, “When you are suffering know that I have betrayed you.” Followed by the hypnotic chanting of “We hate love, we love hate” from an energized audience. This introduction is short lived however as the roar of a guitar overdosing on distortion and Manson’s raging vocals tear through the speakers of the listener, showing no sign of slowing down. The next few tracks are little to no different showing off fiery anger, with the exception of the heavenly euphoric “Cryptorchid” and the passive aggressive “Man that you fear.” The climax, “The reflecting God”, proves to be the most explosive song on the album with its nihilistic verses and its rage filled chorus flowing into the final track “Man that you fear.” The hidden track only known as “Track 99” describes the aftermath of the story through static and Manson’s rambling words, ending with the repetition of “When you are suffering know that I have betrayed you.”

Manson's concept for the story reflects the thoughts and feelings from the standpoint of one character simply known as the worm. A weak and pathetic character that has become disgruntled by humanity's weakness and satisfaction of living in a corrupt society and is sent into a fit of rage which through a series of trials and tribulations, is transcended into the Antichrist Superstar. This powerful being of complete destruction ends the story with the destruction of the world. The worm's journey is divided into three acts or cycles in the album. Cycle 1: The Hierophant, Cycle 2: Inauguration of the Worm, and Cycle 3: Disintegrator Rising.

Religion plays an obvious role as the album's title itself parodies the 1970's play, *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Most of the lyricism presented is often mocking and sometimes outright bashing Christianity, drawing influences and ideas from well-known occultists and Satanists such as the Church of Satan founder, Anton LaVey. Totalitarianism also appears to have a presence with the character taking on the militaristic role of a dictator. This persona would carry over into Manson's live performances which he would describe as "a cross between glam rock and a Nürnberg rally."

Upon release, the album was not without controversy whether it was coming from the Christian right or concerned parents with some worrying about the effects of aggressive music on the minds of youth, while others believed Manson to be the literal Antichrist. It could be argued however that this heated press helped Manson's popularity in the long run.

This standalone concept album would go on to be a part of what Manson would call his "trilogy", three works of art tied together. This would include *Mechanical Animals* (1998), a story about an alien rock band and *Holy Wood* (2000), which told the story of a man named Adam and was also Manson's statement about the Columbine high school shootings of 1999. Manson has since then described the trilogy as a story told in reverse, meaning *Holy Wood* is the beginning, *Mechanical Animals* is part 2, and *Antichrist Superstar* is the grand finale.

Antichrist Superstar is considered by many to be Marilyn Manson's best album next to *Holy Wood*. It stained the music industry with a shocking and obscene personality that both repulsed and intrigued an unsuspecting population in a scene of counter culture that was slowly inching its way into a new millennium. This album's sound, while proving to be quite strong at times, its thought provoking lyricism and themes might just be enough to make you echo "We hate love, we love hate."

Deportation is Separation

By: Brenda Cano



As I walked into the rally, a guy asked if he could take a picture of me. He had complimented my sign, so I agreed and posed with a somewhat awkward smile. I had painted the sign a night before; it read “deportation is separation” in all capital letters in red, white, blue, and green.

It was a warm day, perfect for a rally. I was surprised at the amount of people that showed up to the action against HB2315, the bill that would prohibit so-called “sanctuary” policies and practices in Tennessee. As a first generation American, the thought of this anti-immigration bill scared me. Because my twelve-year-old little sister came with me, this rally was different than the others I had attended. My little sister’s asking if she could come with me left me in awe. Although she does not completely understand how the government works, her believing it was important to urge Governor Haslam to veto the Mass Deportation bill made me so proud of her.

We chanted so much my throat was hurting by the end of the day. I can still hear the chanting in the back of my mind. “El pueblo unido jamas sera vencido! El pueblo unido jamas sera vencido! El pueblo unido jamas sera vencido!” I believed every word I chanted that day, and I still do. Every chant was truer than the last to me. “No nos rendiremos!”

If we stick together for a just cause, we can never be defeated.

For me, that cause was change and making sure people understand privilege. Because so many people lack the realization of their privilege, we have not been able to acquire change.

Governor Haslam allowed the bill to pass, so starting January 1, 2019 Tennessee will no longer have sanctuary cities. I am way too accustomed to the feeling of disappointment when it comes to politics. My first encounter with this feeling was with the announcement of the termination of DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, which is still fresh on my mind. With every defeat comes the sense of change diminished, but I can never walk away from this fight. I might get a sour taste in my mouth every time, but I will wash it down with water every time.

I posted this picture on snapchat and Instagram the day of the rally. I had also been posting about the rally all week to urge people to come support. I think it is important to keep people informed, and I pride myself in being an active person in the Latino community.

I am extremely proud to be Mexican-American. I have always considered myself an outspoken person, especially once I began high school. I have continuously gone to many rallies through sunshine, rain, and cold, because I genuinely care for many causes. I believe a step forward, even if we just took five steps backwards, is an important win.

The HOUSE

By: Rose Schaddelee

Leaves rustle in the wind
Footsteps make a soft
crunch Birds take flight
all around
Chirping with their harmonic melodies

Woodpeckers and wrens are amidst the
wild They fill the mild night
With their presence and temperate
selves Symphonic sounds echo in
the forest

As we approach the
driveway, Vivid leaves
accompany it They crinkle
and toss about
Making the mountain air so much more
crisp

Walking observantly up the stone
steps I do a double take,
Admiring the aroma of my environment
As well as being filled with a sense of
contentment

As I ring the doorbell, I admire the front
porch; Covered with potted plants, a
wooden bench, And several rusted bird
feeders,
It already gives a great impression of a
warm welcome

My grandparents open the door
They embrace me with a hug so
giant It could shake the entire
mountainside

Walking inside, I take off my wool
coat And place it on the coat rack to
the left.

To my right is a shelf of my grandmother's favorite
books

A whiff of my grandma's famous
chocolate chip cookies hits me.

I sit down on the cozy and snug couch
My grandparents lie back in their reclining chairs
We catch up and just enjoy each other's presence

The sun has just gone
down So I walk onto the
back porch

I feel the wind whistle and softly hit my
skin It carries me out of my sadness

Sitting here, taking in all of the beauty around me ,
I realize that this is a place where my heart and soul
are Still beating, oddly intact

I have never felt so found

This is where I have become myself
This is where I have grown over the
years Each time I come back,

I am welcomed with open arms and thankful hearts

WINTER

oh! it's snowing again!



I love winter! The warm sweaters, snowflakes, perfect hot chocolate season...



... I think it's the most wonderful time of the year!



< HEADS UP!



POW



I hate winter



Jackie Saison

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