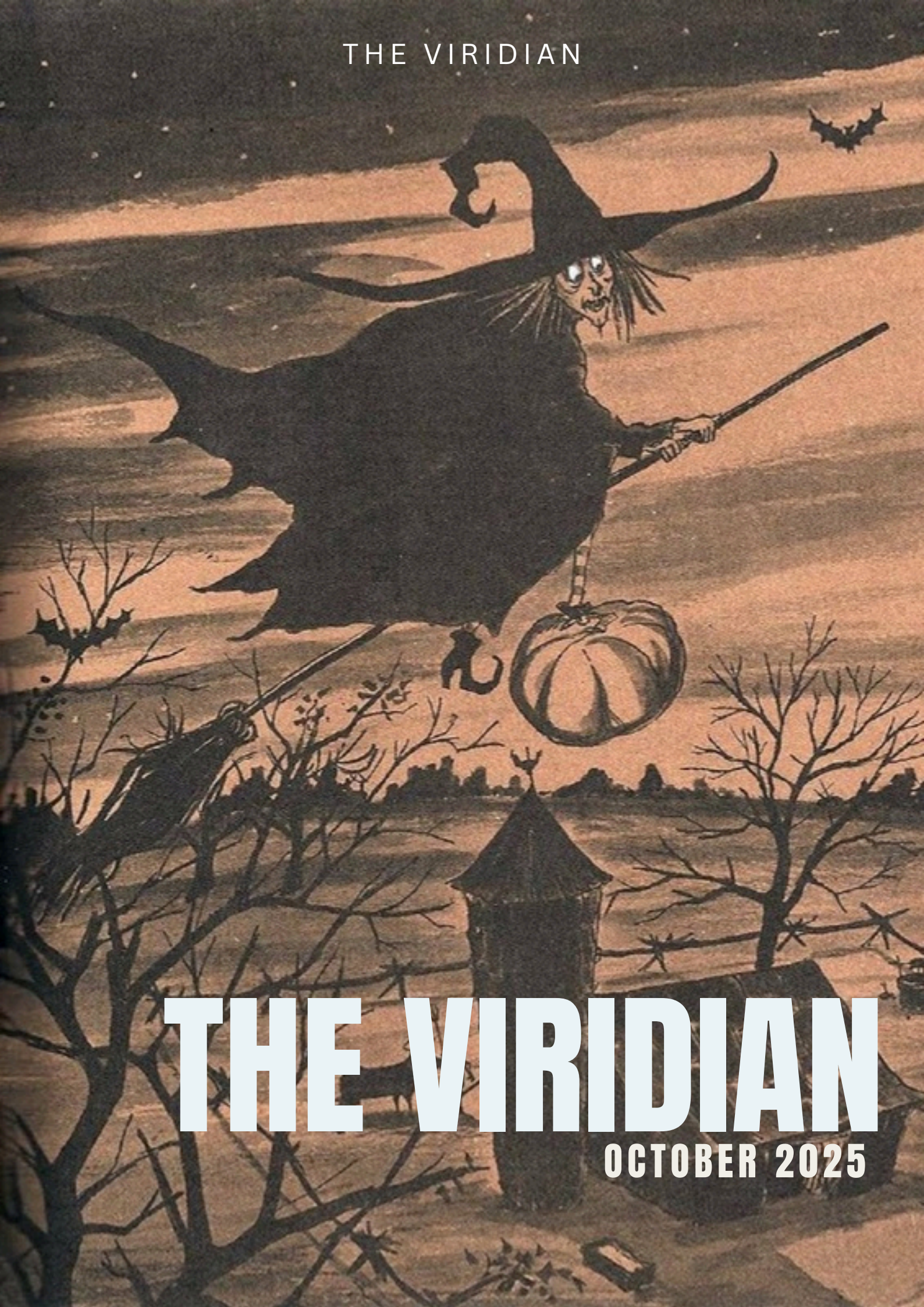


THE VIRIDIAN



THE VIRIDIAN

OCTOBER 2025

THE VIRIDIAN

HAPPY
HALLOWEEN



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PHOTOGRAPHY

LOUKA DEMANGE

EDITED BY

STEPHANOS ARTEMIS, MR. ANTONIOU

EDITOR'S WELCOME

Dear readers,

It is with much anticipation and pride that we announce the return of ***The Viridian*** in 2025-2026! After an immensely successful year of publications and a restful summer vacation, our team has returned to HUMS 3 for another semester of creating the magazine. With this issue, a fresh, new chapter begins, not only for *The Viridian* itself, but for our team. This year marks an exciting step forward, as we continue to build on the creativity and humour of *The Viridian*.

My name is Stephanos Artemis, and I am a Year 12 Student. I have the honour of being the new Editor-in-Chief of *The Viridian*. Stepping into this role is both a privilege and a responsibility as I follow in the footsteps of an amazing team who built this magazine into a cornerstone of our school's vibrant life. With a talented team of writers, editors, and creators by my side, I am confident that this year's editions will not only entertain, but it will also reflect the diverse spirit of our community.

Just two years ago, *The Viridian* was still in its initial stages, born out of brainstorming sessions, ambitious drafts, and the occasional debate over ideas and layouts. Today, it has become a vibrant fixture of school life, with spirited weekly meetings in which discussions range from serious planning to light-hearted jokes that makes our team unique. Watching both the magazine and its readership flourish has been a source of immense pride for us, and we look forward to building on that momentum this year.

In June, our team said goodbye to the founding members of *The Viridian*. The Class of 2025 will be remembered for many things, and one of those will definitely be the creation of this incredible magazine. We want to wish them all the best in their studies and future endeavours. Today, our team includes several new additions, who are all making their memorable debut in our newsletter.

One of our aims this year is to integrate new ideas into established traditions: to preserve what makes *The Viridian* familiar, but also to experiment with different, new approaches. Whether you turn to us for recommendations, laughs, or a little bit of both, we hope you enjoy what we've created. We want to celebrate the diverse interests of our contributors, expand the range of topics we cover, and push the boundaries of what a school magazine can be.

- STEPH

THE VIRIDIAN

MEET THE TEAM



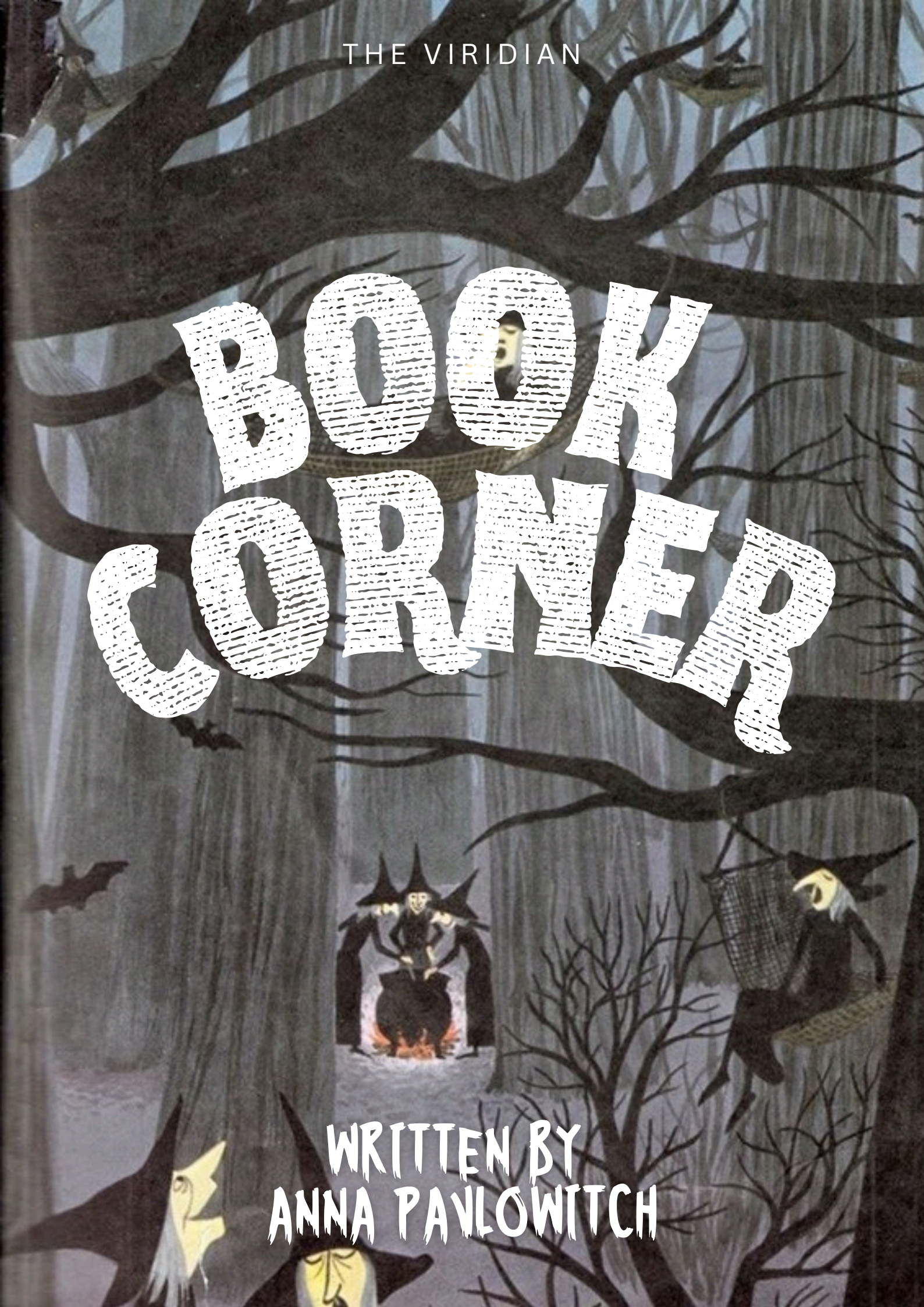
THE VIRIDIAN TEAM
2025/26

PHOTO TAKEN BY: LOUKA DEMANGE

THE VIRIDIAN

BOOK CORNER

WRITTEN BY
ANNA PAVLOWITCH

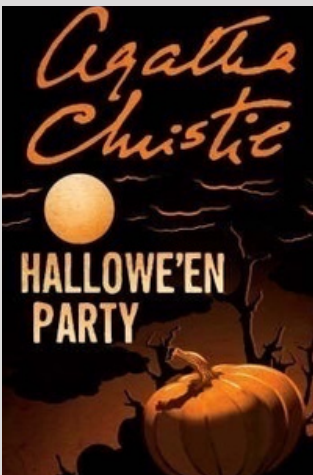


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Hi, I'm Anna, and I guess you could say that I like books. You may know me from last year, when Sophia gave me the chance to shadow this column and contribute with monthly reviews. Now that she has left and passed the baton to me, I hope to keep it as amazing as it has been these past two years. I'm incredibly excited to share both my recommendations and brutally honest opinions with you all. My bookworm tastes vary, from classics to theatre to whodunnits, so that means you will hopefully eventually find something to your liking. I realise I've established myself as quite nerdy with this introduction, but I am determined to use this column to play my part in bringing the dying art of reading back to life.



Nothing quite compares to wrapping oneself up in a blanket (wishful thinking I know, it will be a while yet) with a cup of tea, a candle, and a spine-chilling ghost story at hand. A raging storm would be nice too. As you can probably tell, I am an absolute fanatic of the gothic genre, from spooky to gruesome, from eerie fable to murder mystery.



Hallowe'en Party

AGATHA CHRISTIE

"You and I have a principle in common. We do not approve of murder."

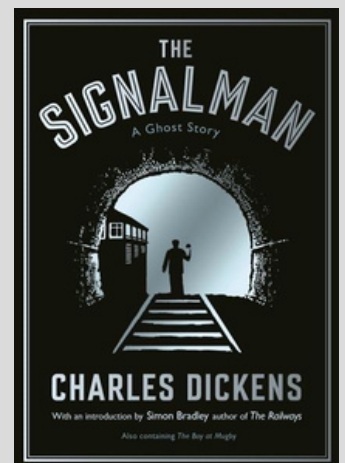
Hercule Poirot and his 'little grey cells' have done it again. At a Hallowe'en party, 13-year-old Joyce Reynolds boasts about having once witnessed a murder. I think we can all pretty much see where this is headed, and sure enough, the very next day, the phone rings in Poirot's London flat. Joyce had been found drowned in an apple-bobbing tub. Though one of Agatha Christie's lesser-known novels, and not my personal all-time favourite, this English countryside whodunnit certainly ticks the boxes for a bleak, autumnal afternoon.

The Signalman

CHARLES DICKENS

"Darkness, solitude and distress! That is what I have been condemned to."

If you want to read a Dickens but don't feel like reading all 566 pages of *Great Expectations* (or if you have a deadline for your school newspaper and you need a gothic short story to review), this chilling 30-page book is for you. When the signalman of a lonely railway siding invites the narrator to his cabin, the contents of his troubled mind come pouring out of him. The signalman has twice been visited by a ghostly apparition warning him of impending disaster, mere hours before tragedy struck the railway line – a spectre which had appeared again that very morning. Likely to have been inspired by Dickens' own experience during a train crash, the character of the signalman not only acts as the victim of a plot, but also as a mirror of Dickens' psychological scars following the incident. Short and unsettling, 'The Signalman' evokes all the feel-good nature of a campfire ghost story.



THE VIRIDIAN

Jane Eyre

CHARLOTTE BRONTË



“I am no bird; and no net ensnares me: I am a free human being with an independent will.”

Jane Eyre, best known amongst the younger generation as yet another doorstopper of a book that your English teacher recommends you read. I prefer to describe it as a gothic masterpiece which opens a window onto anguished souls haunted by their past and tortured by their present. Orphaned Jane Eyre grows up in the heartless home of her cruel aunt, from which she escapes to be coldly welcomed at the oppressive institution that is Lowood School. Her troubled childhood hardens Jane's spirit, which proves necessary when she takes on the job of governess in the ancestral home of the brooding Mr Rochester. As their deep infatuation with each other turns into love, Jane suddenly finds herself face-to-face with Thornfield Hall's darkest secret, which dramatically alters her relationship with Rochester forever. Through her writing, Brontë not only eloquently fabricates an intensely dark atmosphere, but also explores the idea of feminism as Jane attempts to navigate her way to independence. Categorised by many critics as a young adult novel, countless young women have found solace and inspiration in the poor and plain governess who refuses to be subjugated by a society that is constantly trying to put her down. So, the next time you find yourself discouraged by the novel's significant length, its tiny font and by the fact that it was written in 1847, I implore you to think again



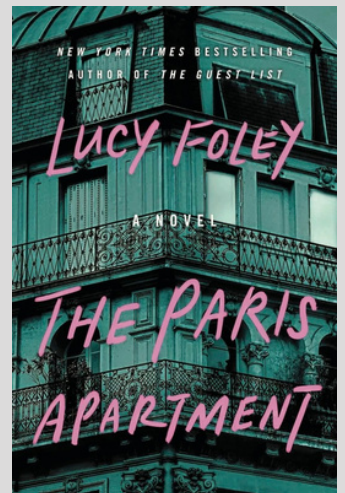
The Paris Apartment

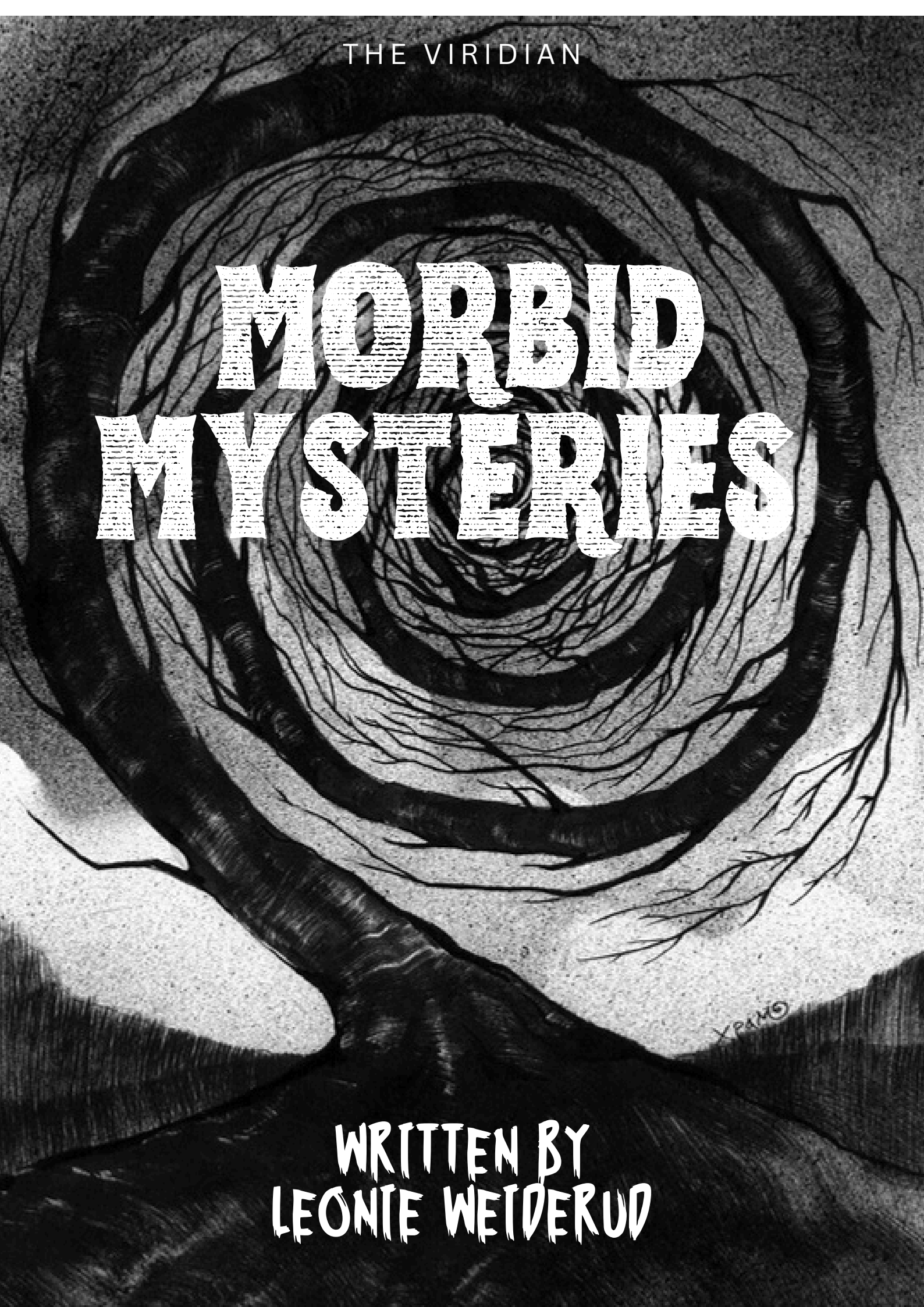
LUCY FOLEY



“It's a beautiful building, but there's something rotten at its heart.”

To deviate a little from books written by the long dead, I thought I should stir the pot with one that has been all the rage on the literary goldmine also known as 'BookTok'. A Paris apartment building in which every resident has something to hide, a narrator running from her haunted past, a brother who has mysteriously disappeared. What could possibly go wrong? Each chapter is written from a different person's perspective, and the eccentricity of the characters makes for an interesting plot, heightening the tension for the revelation of the shocking secret that binds them. That said, I found the main protagonist plain annoying, too deeply rooted in the trope of the young woman who is street-smart, in touch with her instincts, and brave because she is forced to be. Still, a thrilling ride.





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MORBID MYSTERIES

WRITTEN BY
LEONIE WEIDERUD

THE VIRIDIAN

Hi readers, did you miss me? I know I missed you.
My name is Leonie and I'm glad to be back with my column, 'Morbid
Mysteries', sharing my love of any creepy, paranormal, ghostly, or
unexplainable story or case.
I hope you enjoy the tales, and hopefully don't lose too much sleep at
night...

THE CANDY MAN

The rain fell in cold, steady sheets, turning the cracked sidewalks into mirrors that warped the glow of jack-o'-lanterns. On a Halloween night in 1974, little ghosts, witches, and monsters shuffled from house to house, their costumes clinging damp against their skin, candy bags growing heavy in their hands.

That night 78 years ago, the children of Deer Park, Texas were out knocking on doors. Ronald Clark O'Bryan was out too, watching over his kids – eight-year-old Timothy and five-year-old Elizabeth – as they trick-or-treated in their suburban neighbourhood, along with some neighbourhood kids and parents. One of the houses that the group approached was pitch black, but the kids banged on the door anyway – the vague promise of candy was too enticing. Growing impatient without an answer, the kids ran off to find another house, leaving Ronald behind. When he had finally caught up, he came bearing good news. Producing a handful of 21-inch Pixy Stix, tubes of powdered sour candy: "Turns out someone was in the house all along." The sweets were handed out to the 5 children, including his kids.



When they came home that night, before bed, Timothy was allowed one treat from the evening's haul, and picked his Pixy Stix tube, but the powdered sugar was stuck in the straw, and it wasn't until his dad helped him to dislodge it that he could take his first mouthful. It tasted bitter, he complained, so Ronald grabbed him a glass of Kool-Aid to wash the taste away. Timothy immediately started vomiting and convulsing. Less than an hour later, he was dead. Next to him lay a tampered-with, re-stapled Pixy Stix. His father Ronald, an optician and deacon at his church, testified that he held his son as he died.

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The investigation began straight away, with an autopsy finding that Timothy had consumed enough cyanide to kill two people, let alone a young child. Tests later found that the top two inches of the Pixy Stix had been packed with the poison. An uproar went through the neighbourhood, as police and parents searched for other poisoned candy; four sticks were found still in the children's bags, and one stick was found unopened in bed with a child. As the other four children, including O'Bryan's daughter, Elizabeth, didn't eat the candy, they managed to survive the potential poisoning attempt.



CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS

The police took Ronald back to the neighbourhood that the group had been trick-or-treating in, in an attempt to direct them to the house where he'd picked up the Pixy Stix. But he was stumped, stating that he just couldn't find the house, and that he'd never seen the face of the person responsible; that had just emerged from a doorway and handed him the candy. However, during a second round of questioning, his memory was jogged and pointed at the house. But after arresting the man who lived in the dark house it was discovered that he had an alibi and was working that night, and his wife and daughter who were home had turned off their lights as they had run out of candy.

Soon after that they discovered that Ronald had recently taken out life insurance policies on both of his children – \$10,000 per child in January of that year, and then a further \$20,000 on each, a month before Halloween. With investigators aware that Ronald owed debts of over \$100,000, and on the morning after Timothy's death he'd called the insurance providers to ask about the payout.

Granted a warrant, police conducted a search of the O'Bryan house, which offered up a pair of scissors with plastic residue attached, similar to that found on the cyanide-laced sweets. O'Bryan was arrested and taken in for questioning, and it was found that on Halloween morning, a man resembling O'Bryan was seen in a garden store buying potassium cyanide.



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However, during his trial Ronald entered a not guilty plea, with his defence blaming the tainted candy on some untraceable boogiemans, a sick individual using the cover of Halloween to poison unsuspecting children. However, friends, family, and co-workers all testified against the “Candy Man,” and on June 3rd, 1975, it took just 46 minutes for a jury to return a guilty verdict for one charge of capital murder and four counts of attempted murder. An hour later, it was decided that Ronald would be sentenced to death.

On March 31st, 1984, almost 10 years later, outside the Texas State Penitentiary in Huntsville, a crowd of around 300 people gathered to hear if “The Halloween Poisoner,” had met his end, shouting “Trick-or-treat”.



INTRODUCING LOUISA

Hi *Viridian* fans, I'm Louisa and I'll be shadowing (no pun intended) the infamous Leonie, author of the *Morbid Mysteries* column.

I was unable to write in this year's Halloween Edition, however I will be coming soon with gory tales that will hopefully extend the beloved spooky season...



THE VIRIDIAN

VIDEO ARCHIVES

WRITTEN BY
NOAH NATHANAEI

THE VIRIDIAN

We're back! It's Noah, your local film fanatic, ready for another year of going on a rant and veiling it as hard-hitting journalism. On that note, here's a game of Trick or Treat; what you think you should be watching this month and what you actually should.



TRICK

THE ENTIRE 'CULT MOVIE' SUBGENRE:

I'm talking about the Saltburnification of cinema.

Aesthetically A24, cultists preaching wokeism, unhygienic eating, I can go on. Every one of these films feels like a parody of something better and every choice within them feels like they were made in a conference room. 'Midsommar' is 'Get Out' but set in Sweden, 'Don't Worry Darling' is 'Midsommar' but in the 50s, 'The Menu' is 'Don't Worry Darling' but with food, and 'Opus' is 'The Menu' but with music. It's reached a point where what is trying to be said comes off as so disingenuous and uninspired that viewing them feels like choking on a piece of devilishly unseasoned chicken. This genre is overconsumed, oversaturated, overrated and just... over.

They pass the time, they're entertaining, you talk about them during break, and our teachers talk about them in the staff room, but there comes a time when you wonder how many more of these things we have left. That time is now. Nothing good comes from boiling art down to a formula. To me, it's blasphemous. To you, it's probably like when someone is scratching your back and they scratch everything but the itchy part. Remove that person from your life.



EVERY TRASHY SLASHER MOVIE EVER:

I'm going broad this year, no one is safe.

The only way I can get behind this is if someone watches them in the same way I watch Hallmark movies on Christmas; when they cross the boundary of being so disgustingly awful that they become enjoyable. That's the only way. It will be a dark day, a judgement day, when I ask my children what's on in theatres and they respond with 'The Conjuring 17' and 'Insidious 412'.

It's these excuses for a home-movie which act as the big, stubborn plug stopping the flow of real emotionally driven narratives from getting a place on the big screen. There's no flow guys. Bring back the flow.

I feel very strongly about this.



THE VIRIDIAN TREAT

'THE SUBSTANCE' & 'THE THING' DOUBLE FEATURE:

The following is very high praise considering one is basically The Picture of Dorian Gray but for people who listen to Charli XCX and the other is The Thing (1982). You become what you consume. You are moulded by what consumes you. This is what these films are saying, whether it's yielding to desire or trying to destroy it, you are a byproduct of every conversation, every bad thought, every interaction you have ever had. Because of this, once you suspend yourself to a place higher than what is attainable you will fall, or lose a fragment of what makes you who you are. Everyone was birthed into brutality and to live is a brutal act so if I'm an advocate for anything it's to find comfort in your self and your evolution, find beauty in it, breathe and love through it because in the end you'll be met with the unattainable. If you have resonated even slightly with any of this then watch these movies, wince and squirm at the body horror, and call me sick for extracting this from that.

SCARY MOVIE (2000)

- DIR. KEENEN IVORY WAYANS

"But Noah," I hear echoing through my monitor, "Didn't you just say monetary driven franchises are killing cinema, content is becoming overvalued and indigestible, real art is foregone?" To that I say: Yes, I am a hypocrite, it's what makes me charming. Plus, Scary Movie is a work of art; although I can't speak for the other four. The Wayans brothers are like the Jackson Five but without a Michael. In the kingdom of parodies, this takes the throne, who says Halloween has to be all gore and awfulness? Tell me honestly from which other movie could I pull a quote embodying its experience like "Chillin', killin'," and go on? I'd give more examples, but they wouldn't be PG-*Viridian*. Take my word for it, that is, if you are of the age to have taken or are about to take an IGCSE exam.

INTRODUCING SIMONA

Hi everyone, I'm Simona and I'm so excited to be sharing my own reviews and recommendations with you in this year's film column! My job by the end of this year, is to hopefully have helped you fill your

Letterbox accounts with new movies added to your watchlist or logged down with your own opinionated critiques.





THE VIRIDIAN

HISTORY

WRITTEN BY
DAPHNE LIAPIS

THE VIRIDIAN



Hi I'm Daphne Liapis and I'm so excited to be writing articles again for this year's *Viridian*! The history column was the obvious choice for me to write for, as I adore researching and learning more about historical events that shaped the world today. I really hope you enjoy the articles in this column!



THE CELTIC CELEBRATION THAT STARTED IT ALL

The last night of October is the night when overjoyed children running around in disguise shouting 'trick or treat' cannot be missed, orange and black cover all the stores, and jack-O-lanterns are lit up on every porch. However, these colours, traditions and disguises that are typically associated with Halloween, have a deep history which may be unfamiliar to most people.

Our story starts with the Irish Samhain, on the 31st day of October, which is when Celtic people celebrated the end of harvest season. Simultaneously, though, it marked the beginning of darkness and the winter season. During this celebration they would often have feasts and light bonfires, as if trying magically to bring back the waning sun.

Also, the Celts of Ireland believed that the night of Samhain was a liminal time, during which the ghosts of people that had passed away would rise from the underworld, roam earth, and mix with living people, to tease them or harm them. This is why it was common practice for people to dress up in ghoulish costumes, such as goblins or ghosts; they believed that their disguise would allow them to blend in with the ghosts.

An essential aspect of Halloween nowadays is the colour orange, which most people believe reflects the dark-amber shade of the changing leaves. However, it is more likely that the colour orange points back to the dark orange colour of the bonfires lit and rekindled during Samhain.



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Another important aspect of Halloween is the pumpkin outside people's houses. There were many bonfires happening on Samhain, so it was crucial to find ways to transport light to ignite new fires. To facilitate this process, people would use vegetables, which they had an abundance of as it was the end of harvest season, and they would carve holes for the coal to go inside, often times in the shapes of ghastly ghouls as it was believed to scare off the evil spirits. Pumpkins were not vegetables which were found in the Celtic regions, until people migrated to North America in the 19th century, and found Pumpkins, which proved to be much easier to hollow out because of their round shape. So today Pumpkins are often carved with unsettling faces and placed outside, to continue the tradition of scaring away the unwanted spirits.



Candy, which is probably the selling point of Halloween for children, was also prevalent as part of this tradition in Ireland. People would often leave candy and other treats outside their doors so that the evil spirits would stay away. Over time though, this became a tradition which mostly appeased the people who were mourning the loss of a loved one. As a result, today, children dress up in costumes and go begging for candy.

Halloween today, is a holiday where people go out with friends or family and unknowingly celebrate all these traditions. Since these customs have been adopted by countries all over the world, we all get a little glimpse into the Celtic culture and history, whether that's through enjoying the cheerful ambiance created by the children, the array of candy selections, or the pumpkin-carving festivities that ensue leading up to Halloween.

INTRODUCING RENEE

Hi everyone! My name is Renee Strouthou, and I am excited to join *The Viridian* as a new writer in the history column. I love researching and writing about topics that I enjoy and find interesting, and I'm looking forward to putting some fun pieces together and to sharing them with you.



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SCIENCE

WRITTEN BY
PHILIPPOS CARNEIRO LEÃO

THE VIRIDIAN

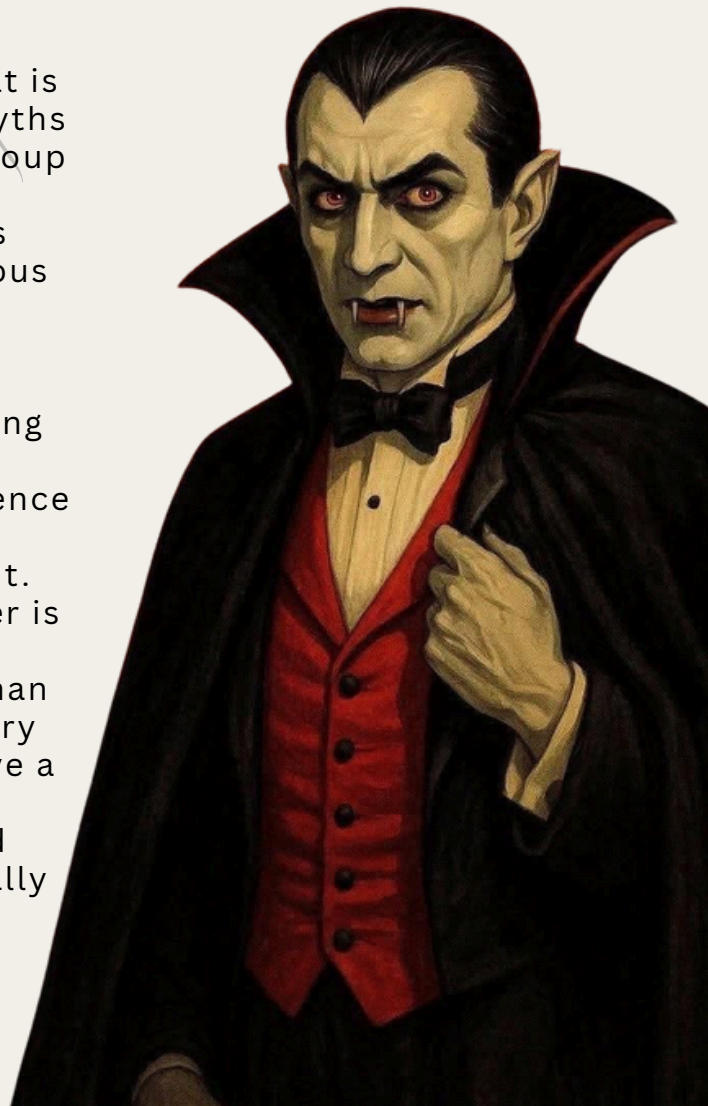
Hi everyone! Welcome back to another year of reading the Science Column of *The Viridian*. My name is Philippos and I'm very excited to be writing the Science Column again this year. Together, we'll look at some of my favourite science-related things, and explain how they work. Happy reading!



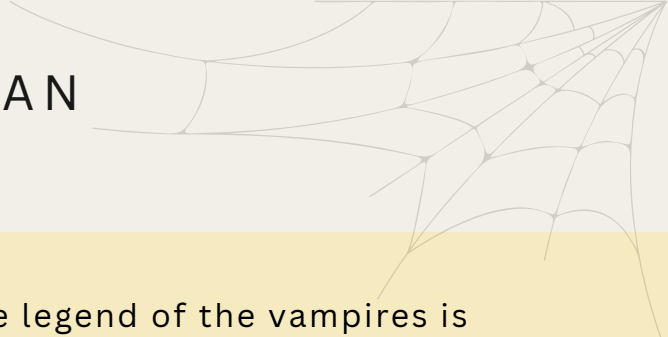
BLEH BLEH BLEH... (VAMPIRES ARE REAL?!)

Around the 18th century, in a secluded village, far from main cities and large civilizations where everyone knew each other, vampire myths were rampant... Everyone had heard of the devilish immortal creatures, pale as ivory roaming the streets, clad in black during the dark hours of the night; all the villagers were weary of unusual travellers crossing through the area, as if one would feast on their blood whilst they lay asleep. What was often misconceived as a gruesome mythological fiend was nothing more than a simple human, suffering from unknown diseases that gave them a freakish look at the time.

One of the most vampire-like diseases that is believed to be the stem of the vampire myths is called **porphyria**. This is a hereditary group of blood disease, usually faltering haemoglobin production in the blood, this causes an abnormality, and can have various effects. The reason that patients with porphyria were usually confused with vampires was because porphyria deeply affects the pigmentation of the skin, leaving patients with deeply pale skin and an extremely harsh sensitivity to sunlight, hence the tale that vampires burn. People with orphyria blister and burn in direct sunlight. Another common symptom of this disorder is increased hair growth, leading people to believe that vampires grew hair quicker than humans. One particularly interesting theory is that porphyria may cause people to have a revulsion to garlic, a phenomenon that is commonly waved away in vampire-themed entertainment, mostly deeming that it really doesn't affect them.

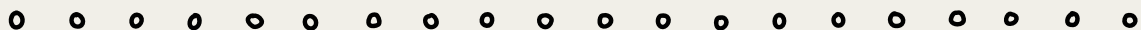


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Another disease that is said to have inspired the legend of the vampires is **rabies**. Now, rabies is mostly connected to stray and crazy animals that are usually amicable but when infected, attack humans, but that is not always the case. Rabies was a highly viral disease at the time, causing many vampire-like behavioural traits among the infected. These traits included insomnia, which may have been the root of the rumour that vampires thrived during the night. Alongside unnatural aggression and biting, bloody saliva and foaming at the mouth would have been the perfect depiction of a person transitioning into a vampire. Adding on to the aversion to sunlight, people with rabies are afraid of water and light, which could be linked to vampires' fear of holy water. The real science behind rabies is much simpler: it is transferred via bite or scratch on the body, even just a blood wound. The virus then makes its way to the central nervous system (CNS), where it speeds to the brain and multiplies massively.

Finally, one disease that could have also contributed to the horrors of today's vampire folk stories could have been **pellagra**. Unlike the other diseases, pellagra did not affect much of the patients' behaviour, but rather their appearance for the most part. People suffering from pellagra suffered a niacin (a B vitamin produced by the body, used to keep the skin, nervous and digestive systems healthy) deficiency, leading to skin issues and dementia. The skin issues could have been mistaken for a cadaver-like complexion, and the dementia may have led people to believe vampires were crazy.



INTRODUCING THIS YEAR'S...

SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM:

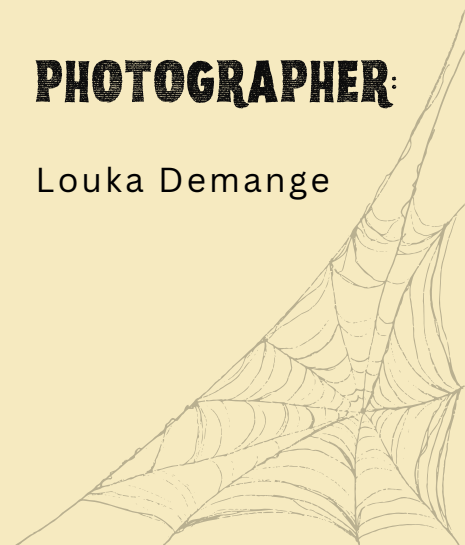
Sylvia Michaelides
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LAYOUT DESIGN TEAM:

Sylvia Michaelides
Alina Mitsi
Angelina Lytra
Betty Eliopoulou
Emily Adams

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Louka Demange



The background is a dark, moody illustration of a forest. A woman with long, flowing blonde hair and a crown of antlers stands in the center. She wears a long, dark, textured dress with a high collar and a small, ornate brooch at the waist. Her expression is somber. The forest floor is covered with numerous glowing yellow mushrooms. The trees are gnarled and dark, with thick, twisted trunks. The overall tone is mysterious and ethereal.

THE VIRIDIAN

NEWLY ADDED

THE FASHION FIX

WRITTEN BY
NEFELI VASSILOU

THE VIRIDIAN

Dear gools, gals and everything in between, My name is Nefeli, and it is with great honour that I welcome you to The Fashion Fix! Here, we'll be talking about anything and everything related to fashion, so whether you're a *Viridian* regular or a fashionista stumbling over the column for the first time, I'm glad you're here. Fashion is much more than just clothes; it's art, expression and culture, all delicately sewn together. I'll be sharing current fashion trends, tips, style analysis, and so much more in hopes to inspire you in your own fashion journey. Think of this column as your go-to corner for inspiration, conversation, and of-course a little bit of glamour.



No one does Halloween quite like Heidi Klum. Since 2000, the supermodel has been throwing annual Halloween parties where celebrities from all over the industry meet. Just as exciting, however, and arguably even more popular than the bashes themselves, are the costumes. This highly anticipated event has been home to some of the most iconic costumes to have ever graced the streets of New York and today, we'll be breaking down my top 3 favourites.

THE GLAMOUR, THE GORE : TOP 3 CELEBRITY COSTUMES FROM HEIDI KLUM'S HALLOWEEN PARTY

NUMBER 3: LUPITA NYONG'O AS DIONNE FROM CLUELESS

Though simple, Lupita Nyong'o's interpretation of Dionne has a certain charm to it that I have yet to see from anyone else dressed as Dionne. The outfit itself is simple, consisting of Dionne's black and white plaid two piece we've come to associate her with. It's layered with a white t-shirt and a red woven cardigan with black button details. This keeps the look instantly recognizable while letting all the accessories do the heavy lifting. She went all in when it comes to accessories, with the bedazzled vintage phone, the micro braids, and the ultra mini bag that can only fit your lipstick. The hat she wears is the exact replica of the one worn by Dionne when we're first introduced to her in the film – a piece that is essential to the character as it reflects her excentric and bubbly personality. The fact that Lupita's version is handmade wins it a million extra brownie points.



LUPITA NYONG'O

DIONNE



THE VIRIDIAN

NUMBER 2: KENDALL AND KYLIE JENNER AS LIZZIE MCGUIRE AND ISABELLA

KENDALL & KYLIE



LIZZIE MCGUIRE & ISABELLA



The Lizzie McGuire film sits comfortably in the hall of fame of iconic Disney Channel classics, so when Kendall and Kylie posted their video dressed as Lizzie and Isabella, social media went crazy. The original outfits from the movie were very much a product of their time, so the sisters cleverly put their own modern twist to it. Kylie was dressed as Isabella and wore a custom-made replica of Isabella's outfit from the movie, with some minor tweaks. In true Kylie fashion, the skirt was finished with a sparkly train detail in the back. She also paired it with glittering, knee-high Prada boots that took the look into high-fashion territory. Kendall, dressed as Lizzie, wore an outfit nearly identical to the original one but with a more contemporary styling. Both the sisters also kept the necklace details from their original outfits, which was such a cute nod to the film. Their creative interpretation managed to capture the aesthetic and feel of the movie whilst also looking flattering, elevated and authentically Kardashian and Jenner.

NUMBER 1: ANOK YAI AS NEYTIRI FROM AVATAR

No words can truly describe how much I adore this costume. It's Anok Yai, so everything looks great on her, but this look might just be her best Halloween look yet. Her entire body and face were covered in blue makeup, and while the process must have been tedious and exhausting, the result was well worth it. The detailing, the scales, and subtle highlights, all made Anok look like a living work of art. The outfit and accessories are from the now-archived CHRISHABANA x Gypsy Sport collection, which incorporated Latinx and Afro-Caribbean influences. This enhanced the overall aesthetic rather than just decorating it, with the jewellery, especially the statement ear cuffs and layered accessories, adding a dramatic, avant-garde edge that complemented the fantastical, otherworldly theme of the costume and the character she was representing.

ANOK YAI



NEYTIRI

Halloween is as much of a runway as it is a celebration. Costumes shouldn't just be colourful corsets paired with a polyester skirt. This year, be bold, experiment, and step into a new character. The holiday is all about stepping out of your comfort zone, even if it's just for one night, so what better time than the present? To end, I'd like to share a quote one of my biggest inspirations:

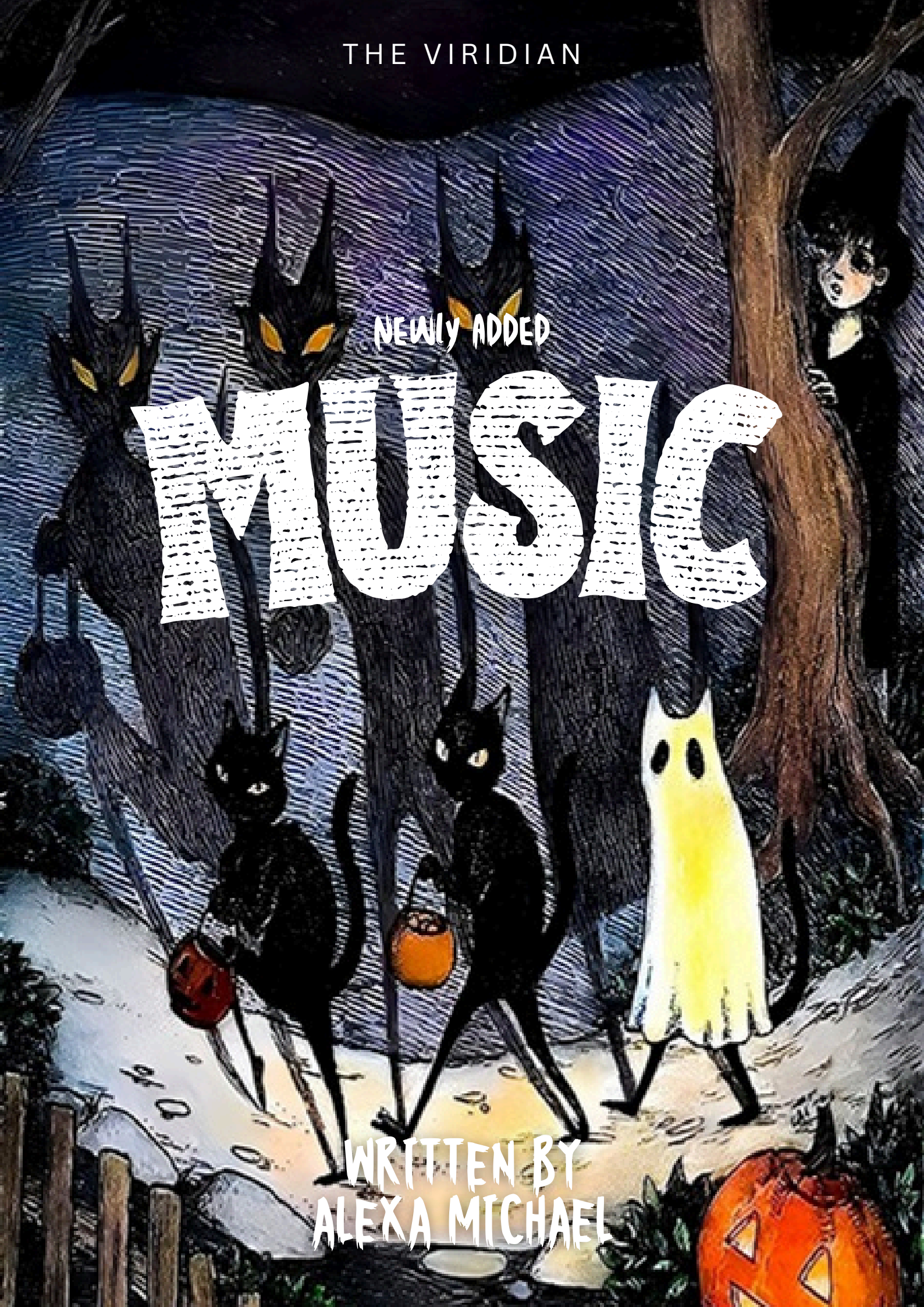
"On Halloween you can pretend to be someone else, it's like the Internet, only in person and with candy!" -Karen, Mean Girls: The Musical

THE VIRIDIAN

NEWLY ADDED

MUSIC

WRITTEN BY
ALEXA MICHAEL



THE VIRIDIAN

Hey, I'm Alexa, and I'm officially in charge of the music section now—which means you're finally about to get a little more cultured. I'll be blessing your ears with good music, keeping you updated on fresh upcoming artists, sharing some of my personal favourites, and even breaking down what your favourite artists reveal about you. Fair warning: I might tease your playlists here and there—but only because I'm here to make sure you know what good music really sounds like.



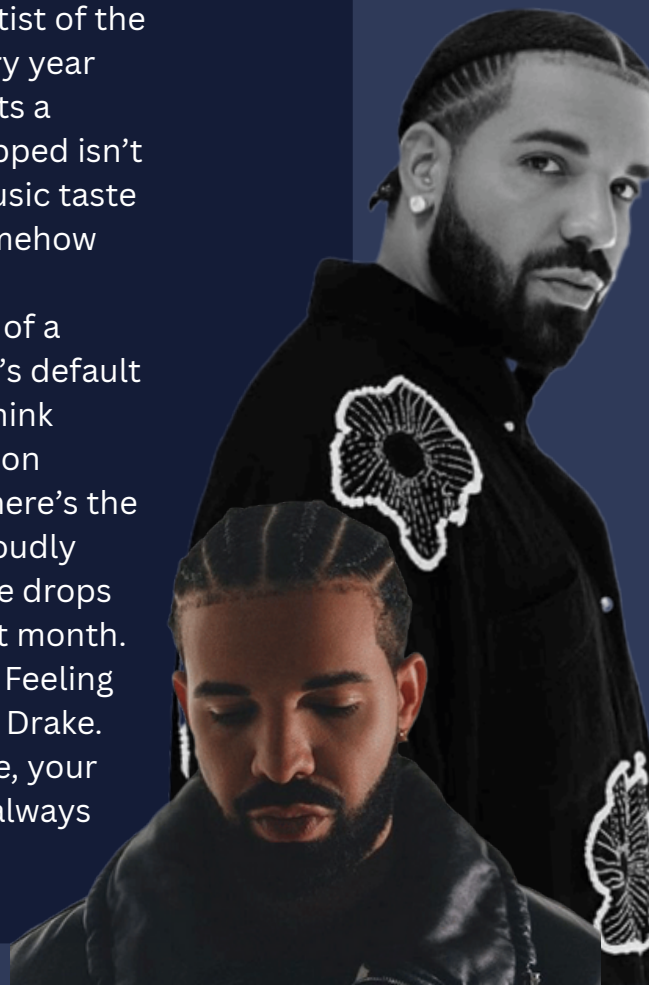
WHAT YOUR FAVOURITE ARTIST SAYS ABOUT YOU:

So, who have you been really listening to this year, this month, this week, or today? To be blunt with you, I don't actually care. And if you think this is going to be some sort of "Safe space," you're right, unless your music taste is bad. In that case, well... I'm not sure how welcome you are. And if you came here seeking validation, I don't know how successful that little quest will be.

DRAKE

Of course you listen to Drake. Let's be real – who doesn't? The man's been officially crowned the No. 1 R&B/Hip-Hop Artist of the 21st Century, which is basically like being prom king every year since 2001. But if he's your top artist? That's where it gets a little... concerning. Having him sit at the top of your Wrapped isn't a red flag exactly, but it's definitely beige. That's your music taste right now: safely predictable, mildly concerning, and somehow both flashy and bland at the same time.

Let's also be honest – Drake is less of an artist and more of a multinational corporation with feelings. He's like Spotify's default setting for when you don't know what else to play. You think you're "Curating a vibe," but really you just pressed play on Spotify's rap playlist with a Canadian accent. And yet... here's the thing. Being a Drake listener does have its perks; I am proudly guilty of it. And let's be real, he's always been reliable. He drops more music than A Level students drop subjects our first month. He's got hits for every mood: Sad? Drake. Happy? Drake. Feeling petty at 3am, texting someone you shouldn't? Definitely Drake. It's basic, but sometimes basic gets the job done. So sure, your taste may not scream "Adventurous," but at least you'll always have a soundtrack for "Vibing," in the bedroom.



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CLAIRO



Ah, our beloved Clairo. Full disclosure, I'm biased. I've been riding with my girl's music since quarantine, and honestly, thank God for her soft, sleepy vocals getting us through those dark, banana-bread-baking, Tiger King-watching times.

Now, I know some of you uncultured heathens might not even recognise her name, but even in your tragic, sonically deprived life, you've accidentally vibed to a Clairo song. Don't deny it. I bet "Hello?" has been stuck in your head at least once a month this year. And with TikTok recycling good songs until they're chewed gum, you've considered deleting the app after it looped your fav into oblivion. We have to admit, though – our girl is the poster child for indie-chill white girl music.

But here's the catch: it's actually good. Yes, the tracks can sound suspiciously similar, like she just copy-pasted the last one and toggled the BPM slider a few notches. And sure, sometimes the "Experimentation," is just a different chord progression she stumbled on at 2am. But somehow, despite the sameness, Clairo consistently delivers the perfect soundtrack for when life feels like it's screaming at you from every direction. She makes music that's not just listened to – it's felt. It's comfort; it's calm. Sure, she might be chill indie elevator music in a cute cardigan, but when life's overstimulating chaos hits, you'll thank her for being your soft, warm headphone hug.

FRANK OCEAN

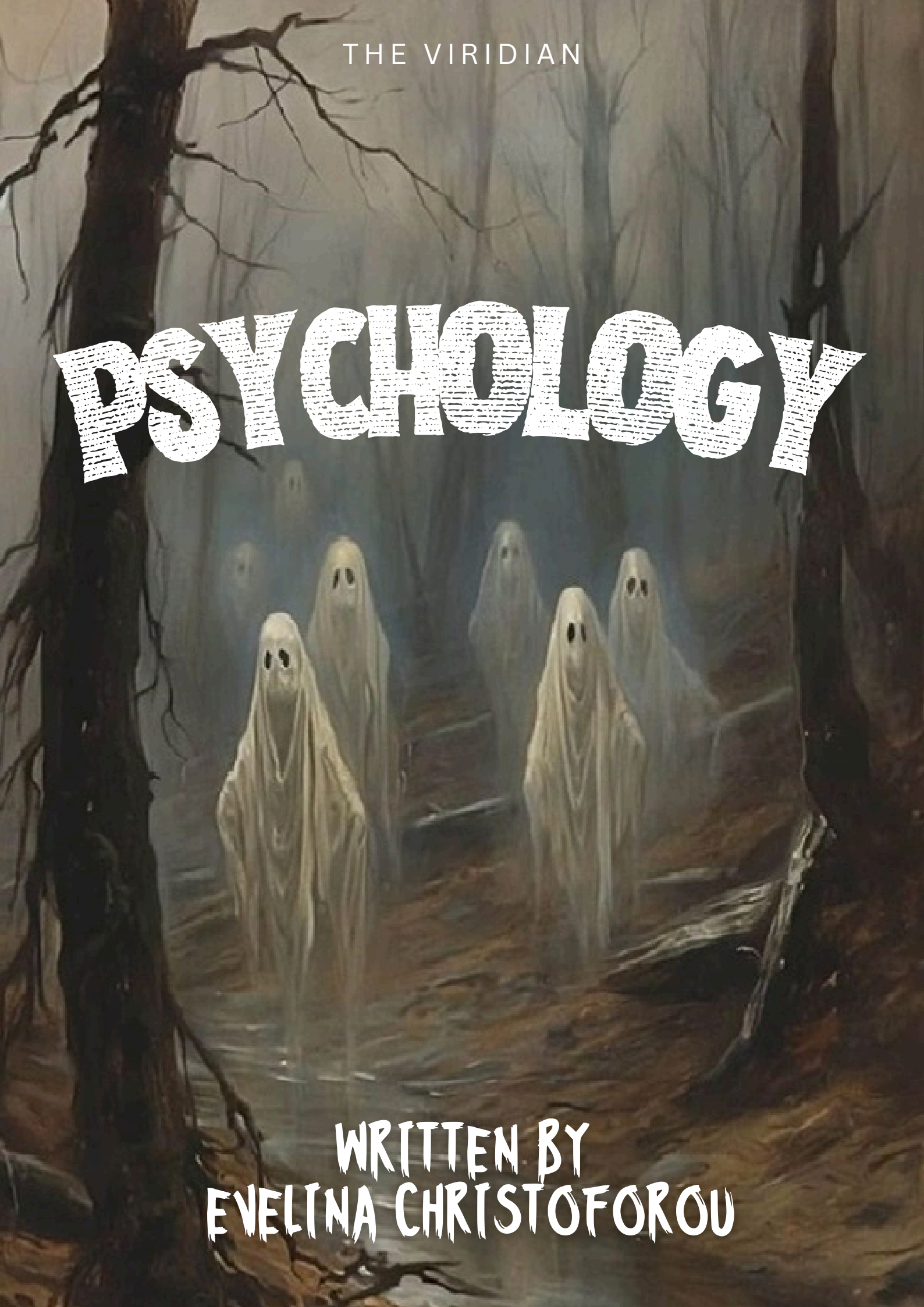
The last victim of this month's edition is none other than the elusive Frank Ocean. Yes, I know – the artist lineup might be a little basic, but let's not pretend your brain has the capacity for anything beyond mainstream pop, rap, or maybe R&B when you're feeling adventurous. And that's exactly why Frank makes the cut. Now, this man has been torturing us. Nine. Years. Nine! Absolutely nothing, while we peasants cling to Blonde and Channel Orange like they're sacred scriptures. And don't act like you've been here since day one – half of you didn't even know who Frank was until TikTok told you "Ivy" was sad-core. But sure, welcome aboard.

Meanwhile, Daniel Caesar has basically been carrying the torch, making up for Frank's absence with heartbreak ballads that slap just as hard, and bless him – he hasn't disappointed. But Frank? He's busy living his best private, enigmatic, "I'm-an-artist-not-a-content-machine" lifestyle while the rest of us spiral, playing "Nights" for the 400th time just to feel something. Let's be honest: the man knows how to write a perfect song. He knows how to soundtrack your monthly breakdown when that one person leaves you on read for a single day. But come on, we're overdue. We need something new to have unreasonable emotional crash-outs to.

GET THIS MAN IN A STUDIO.

At this point, Frank Ocean is doing everything but recording, while we're out here begging for scraps like starved pigeons. And yet... we'll forgive him. Because when he does drop? It'll shatter us in ways we didn't even know were possible. And that's the real pain of being a Frank fan: you suffer, you wait, you cry – and then you thank him for it.





THE VIRIDIAN

PSYCHOLOGY

WRITTEN BY
EVELINA CHRISTOFOROU

Hi everyone! I'm Evelina and I'm writing the psychology column! Psychology has been the one topic that's always intrigued me. I love discovering why people do certain things, why they think and act the way that they do. So, if you enjoy psychoanalysing anything and everything in your life or simply learning new things, keep reading!



THE STANFORD PRISON EXPERIMENT

One of the most disturbing psychology experiments to this day.

In August 1971, **Professor Philip Zimbardo** conducted an investigation on power dynamics. He wanted to determine whether it was acquisition of power that made guards turn brutal, or if brutality was intrinsic to human nature. After getting a grant to study the relationships between prison guards and prisoners, Zimbardo created a Mock prison to investigate the psychological effects of imprisonment. In this experiment, the prisoners lose their liberty, civil rights and their privacy, meanwhile the guards gain power and social status. Two extreme ends of a spectrum.

THE EXPERIMENT

An advertisement was put out, “**Male college students needed for psychological study of prison life \$15 per day for 1-2 weeks.**”

70 people applied. They were interviewed and eliminated if they had history of:

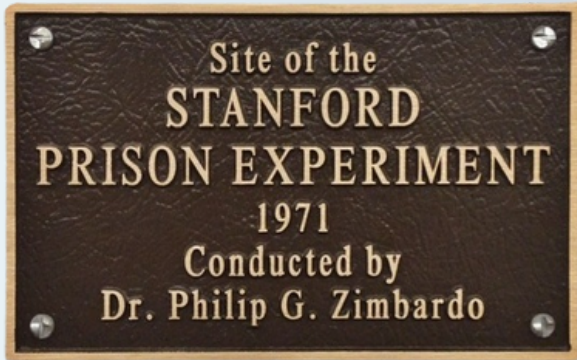
- Drug abuse
- Criminal record
- Personality disorders
- Physical disabilities
- Psychological problems

24 white male college students were selected. There were 12 prisoners and 12 guards, randomly determined by a coin toss. 9 were active participants, 3 were alternates.



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17th of August 1971, the “prisoners” were arrested by real cops in a public setting, thus beginning the humiliation. Each prisoner was left isolated in a detention cell. After a while, they were blindfolded and transported to the “**Stanford County Prison**” a mock prison that had been set up in the basement of Stanford’s “Jordan Hall”. The prisoners were then stripped of their clothes, skin searched, deloused and issued with a numbered ill-fitting uniform, soap, towel, toothpaste and toothbrush, in addition to nylon caps in place of shaving their heads. They were only referred to by their number.



The guards were given real prison guard uniforms, nightsticks and a whistle. Some had mirrored glasses to prevent eye contact with prisoners. Unlike prisoners, the guards could work in shifts. There were three guards during each shift that lasted eight hours, meanwhile off duty guards had to be on-call.

Zimbardo was acting as the Superintendent while researcher David Jaffe acted as the warden, instructing guards to maintain order by any means necessary, apart from physical violence.

What was allowed:

- **Harassment**
- **Withholding of food**
- **Deprivation of privileges**

On night one, the guards used a whistle to rouse the prisoners from sleep for a headcount at 2:30am. The prisoners who didn't take it seriously had to do push-ups. Following this, the prisoners removed the numbers from their uniforms, pulled off their stocking caps and barricaded themselves inside their cells using their beds. The guards then used fire extinguishers to force the prisoners away from the barricades and rushed into the cells, grabbing prisoners, stripping them of their clothes and putting them into solitary confinement.



To gain back control, the guards came up with the “Privilege cell”. Prisoners who were placed there were given back their uniforms and beds, and they got special meals, while the other prisoners were denied everything, and deprived of their normal food rations.

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The guards made the dehumanized prisoners call out their identification numbers. Further, the prisoners were forbidden from using the bathroom at night and were forced to use a never emptied bucket instead, being told that the bad smell was another punishment for misbehaviour.

As the guards got more and more aggressive, the prisoners became increasingly submissive.

PRISONER 8612

After 36 hours of the experiment, prisoner “Doug Korpi” suffered from acute emotional disturbance, disorganised thinking, uncontrollable crying, and rage. As the distress grew, he was released from the experiment. It was the first major event that highlighted the negative psychological impact the experiment was having on the participants.

6TH DAY

Zimbardo began to theorise that the prisoners began seeing themselves as real prisoners and had internalized the crimes as well as their roles as inmates.

The guards were one of three types:

1. **Tough but fair guards who followed prison rules**
2. **Good guys who did small favours for the prisoners and never punished**
3. **Guards who enjoyed the power, who were hostile, arbitrary and inventive in the way they humiliated the prisoners.**

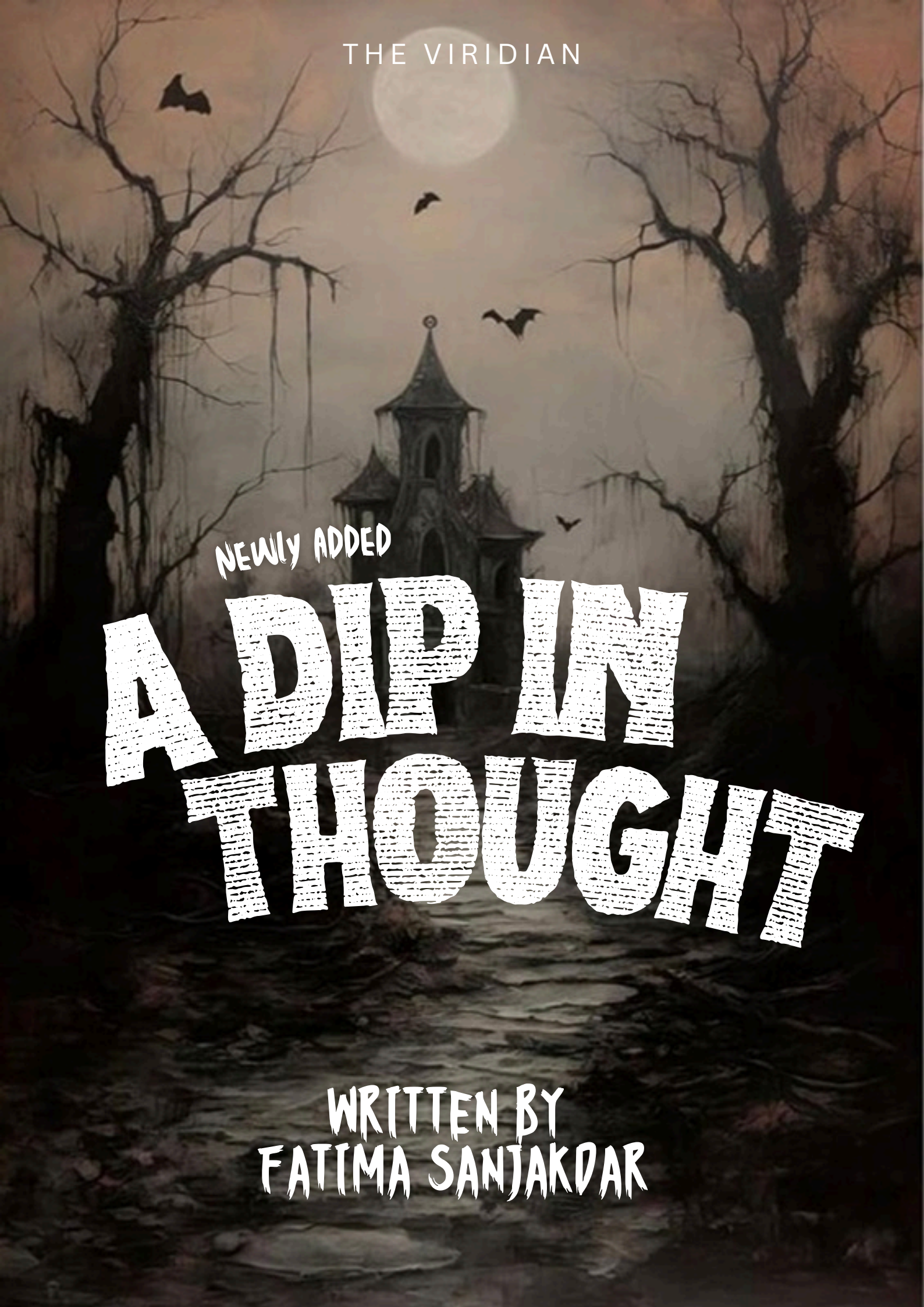
After talking with a real priest Zimbardo had brought in, Prisoner 819 broke down sobbing uncontrollably. He was brought to a doctor and was offered the chance to leave, the prisoner refused, he stated he couldn't leave as the other inmates were already calling him a “Bad prisoner.” Zimbardo pulled him aside and reminded him that he was not a real inmate. Something had then awakened in Prisoner 819, and he finally agreed to leave.

The inhumane experiment was shut down after six days.

INTRODUCING MAYA

Hi everyone! I'm Maya, and I'm currently in Year 11. As someone who loves to observe, I find joy in the little things - whether it's the way people express themselves through actions, words, or style. The world of psychology, discovering why people do what they do, has always made me curious about the subject, and I hope I can deliver something new for you to think about.





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NEWLY ADDED

A DIP IN THOUGHT

WRITTEN BY
FATIMA SANJAKDAR



Hi everyone, my name is Fatima and I'm so excited and honoured to be writing for *The Viridian* this year. In my column 'A Dip in Thought', we will explore ideas, analyse situations philosophically and, most importantly, ask questions. Other than writing, I like reading, volunteering and playing guitar. I look forward to the year ahead with all of you guys and hope you'll come back monthly to read 'A Dip in Thought'!

YOU CAN'T HIDE BEHIND A MASK

Halloween is regarded by many as a spooky call for celebration, by others it's dismissed as futile and, by some, even denounced as satanic. Nonetheless, it is known by all for its distinctive concept. October 31st: a day to be anything but yourself.

It's all in good fun. Guessing each other's costumes, trick-or-treating and scary movies. But at the end of the day, you take the mask off, right? Or are you one to live in the spirit of deceit?



In the field of Philosophy, the paradox of self-deception is commonly assessed in respect to its source, causing philosophers to coin two categories: intentional self-deception and non-intentional self-deception. The former category has a controversial undercurrent in the sense that one's beliefs cannot genuinely be separated into their actual thoughts and their desired thoughts. Instead, intentional self-deception is, most logically, an outcome of discontent with oneself which, therefore, generates the habit of wishful thinking. This occurs both in self-manipulation and as a result of cognitive bias alike. In this phenomenon, the staunch motivation to acquire what one wishes for can develop into ignorance towards reality and eventually give rise to non-intentional self-deception. Though one's lens into the world may be through rose-coloured glasses, wishful thinking cannot construct a life of sunshine and rainbows.

However, it is unjust to attach ultimate moral responsibility to self-deceivers in all cases. In some instances, the denial of an objective truth, in favour of a welcomed or preferred reality, may be established subconsciously as a trauma response, due to severe anxiety or even involuntary denial. These assemble the most common branches of non-intentional self-deception. In the Buddhist parable of 'Kisa Gotami and the Mustard Seed', Kisa Gotami is helpless in her inability to accept her son's death, so she asks the Buddha to revive him. As instructed by the Buddha, she goes to collect mustard seeds from every family in the village who hasn't lost a loved one. When she returns to the Buddha with an empty basket, she discovers that all truths must be accepted in order to reach a state of self-knowledge and contentment. This is an analogy for how the human disposition of greed and ignorance drives a cycle of suffering, which will be experienced by intentional and non-intentional self-deceivers alike.



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Naturally, we all slip into an occasional white lie. Perhaps to mellow guilt, or dilute feelings of shame and inadequacy. But what about the impact of negative self-deception? In this category of thought, we come to discover that the vector of a thought is directly correlated with the power it imposes upon the beholder. Therefore, given that the outcome of an event is unchangeable; the emotional cost of adopting a negative perception is significantly lower than that of adopting the respective positive belief. As I'm sure many of you also do, I find myself lowering my expectations when awaiting test results or modulating my anticipation leading up to an event. Consequentially, developing a negative cognitive bias heightens the unexpected, but welcomed, feelings of joy and excitement, whilst emotions such as disappointment and frustration are mitigated. So, it has grown conspicuous that self-deception isn't always a wretched act of desire, but instead an attempt to find refuge from self-doubt in a world where the self is defined by the quality of individual components.

The truth is, each unit of an individual is not an entity, but a fickle thing, subject to growth and destruction. The human temperament favours survival, so we build up a fortress and confine ourselves in a prison we call protection. We cloak our flesh in mesh and paint our skin silver, hoping that it may seep in.

But even on Halloween, the clock will inevitably strike twelve. And you'll find that the glass slipper will no longer illuminate your disguise. And as you lay in your bed, deep into the deepening night, you'll realize that the deception has died, and the mask has dissolved into the chill in the air of November. As philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche said: 'Become who you are.' And do so before you find a stranger in the place you were meant to be.

As I end my first article on the note of deception and disguise, I'd like to leave you with some lyrics from The Beatles:

*"Eleanor Rigby picks up the rice in the church where a wedding has been,
Lives in a dream, Waits at the window, wearing the face that she keeps in a jar by the
door. Who is it for?"*





THE VIRIDIAN

BEYOND THE SCOREBOARD

WRITTEN BY
ROHAN STYLIANOS DUBEY

THE VIRIDIAN

Hello everyone, my name is Rohan, and I am the writer of the sports column. I love sport and the variety of it. Whether your sport is played on a pitch, track, court, piste, its a way for anyone to find their purpose in life. Hope you enjoy!



October is a month favoured by many due to one specific day. Ironically, it is the last day of the month, October 31st, which to many it is the day we celebrate Halloween. Halloween has evolved into a day to celebrate fright and fun, however in this article, I will discuss the rather “Frightful,” stories found in sports.

FORMULA 1 JAPANESE GRAND PRIX (2014)

On the 5th of October 2014, round 15 of the Formula 1 championship was held in Japan. The race was held under arduous conditions; an approaching typhoon (Typhoon Phanfone) caused heavy rain as well as poor visibility, leading to the Sauber1 of Adrian Sutil losing control on lap 42, and crashing into a tire barrier. Marshals responded and a recovery vehicle was dispatched to collect the car, dangerously close to the run-off area2 of the circuit. Double yellow flags3 were waved in the sector.

On lap 43 of the race, Jules Bianchi lost control of his Marussia, partly due to aquaplaning4. He veered off the circuit, unable to slow down and crashed into the back of the recovery vehicle at a horrifying 126km/h causing the left side of his car to be heavily damaged, the roll bar was destroyed as the car slid under the vehicle. Bianchi suffered severe head injuries, CT scans showed that he suffered from severe brain trauma inducing him to a coma. His condition remained critical but stable until he unfortunately passed away on July 17th, 2015. The FIA investigated his death, concluding that Bianchi did not slow down sufficiently in the yellow flag zone and that there was an overdrive of a failsafe brake by wire system – he had applied both throttle and brake simultaneously. They did not blame themselves for the recovery vehicle being on track.



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1994 FOOTBALL WORLD CUP

In the early 90s, Colombian football was heavily influenced by drug cartels, particularly the Medellin cartel to the point that some clubs were indirectly or even directly funded by drug money. On the 23rd of June 1994, USA vs Colombia played against each other in the Group stages of the 1994 world cup. Colombia's national team was one of the strongest in the world, entering the 1994 FIFA World Cup with high expectations.

A part of the Colombian squad was a player named Andres Escobar – no relation to the more well-known Pablo Escobar. In the 34th minute of the match, Andres attempted to defend a pass by the US's attacker John Harkes, however the ball deflected from his leg into the goal resulting in a 2-1 loss for Colombia. Colombia did not make it to the knockout stages due to this loss.

10 days after his own goal, Andres was shot and killed outside a nightclub in Medellin. He was shot six times, with the killer allegedly shouting “GO!” after each shot, mocking the own goal.

The person convicted of the murder was the bodyguard of Santiago Gallon Henao, Humberto Muñoz Castro. Muñoz claimed the murder was personal and not linked to gambling or organised crime, but many believe cartel money and anger over the World Cup loss played a major role. He was sentenced for 43 years but only served 11.



GLOSSARY

1. **Sauber** – The car/ team Sutil drove for.
2. **Run Off Area** – a safe space next to the track where cars can slow down if they go off the road.
3. **Double Yellow Flags** – Flags waved next to the track for drivers to see to slow down.
4. **Aquaplaning** – When a layer of water builds up under a vehicle's tires, making them lose contact with the road and causing the driver to lose control.
5. **Group Stages** - The first round in a tournament where teams are divided into groups and play each other to decide who moves on to the next round.

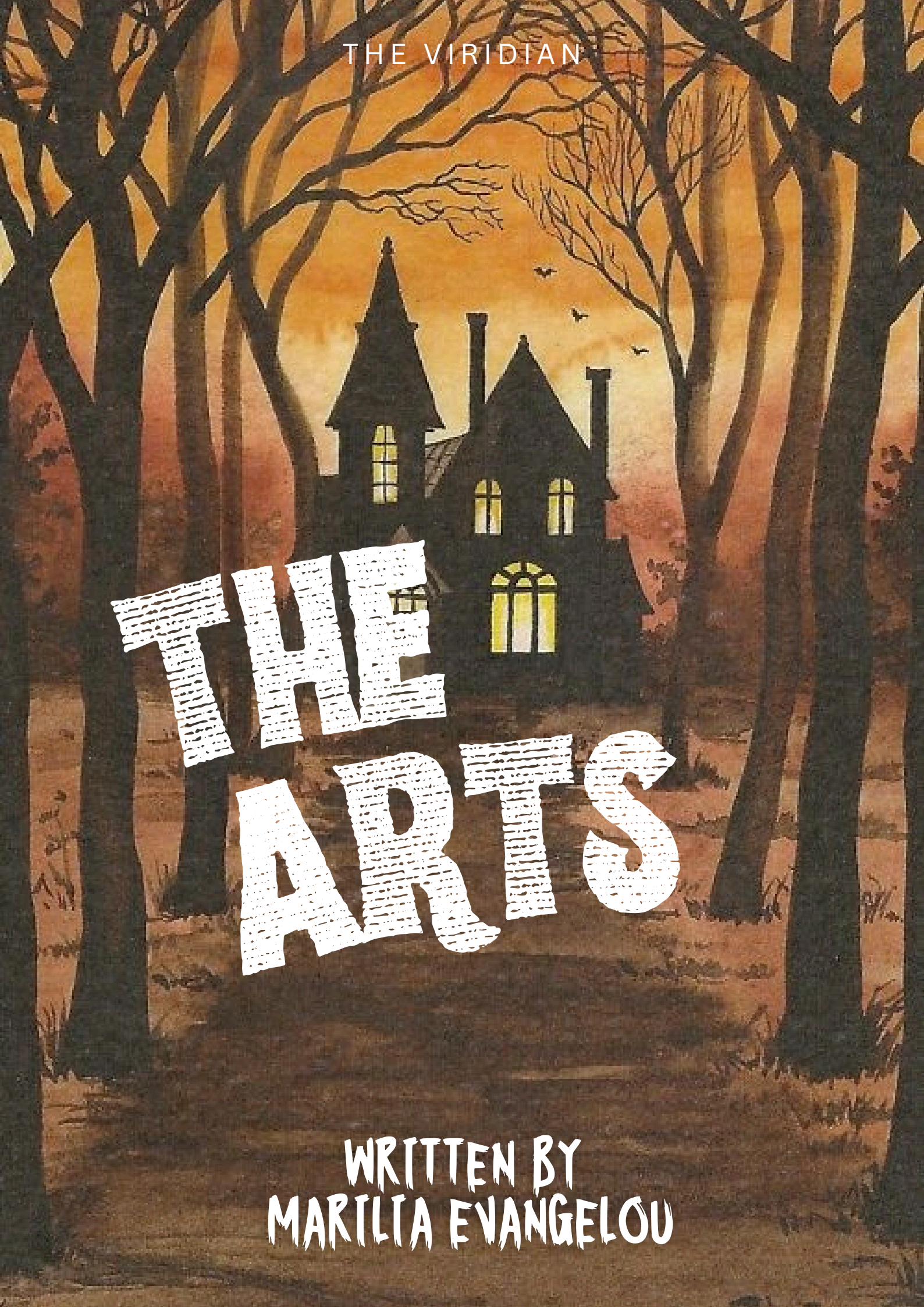
OTHER SIGNIFICANT SPORTING EVENTS THAT HAPPENED IN OCTOBER

Football – In October 2005, Togo qualified for their first ever FIFA World Cup by finishing top of their qualifying group, after a win over Congo and a draw against Senegal.

Formula 1 – On October 19th, 1958, the Moroccan Grand Prix was held at Ain-Diab, Mike Hawthorn became Britain's first F1 World Champion by a single point.

Tennis – On October 23rd, 2005: Rafael Nadal came back from two sets down to defeat Ivan Ljubičić in the final of the Madrid Masters to win his first-ever Madrid title.

Sports can inspire and unite us all, but behind the glory, there are also dark moments filled with tragedy. These “Horror stories,” remind us that athletes face real dangers and challenges, both on and off the field, and that the passion for sport sometimes comes with a heavy price. Thank you very much for reading, Happy Halloween.



THE VIRIDIAN

THE ARTS

WRITTEN BY
MARTILIA EVANGELOU

THE VIRIDIAN

Hey everyone! I'm Marilia and I have the joy of writing our Arts Column this year! For me, art is all about connection and I love exploring the ways our school uses this connection to bring us all together. I hope my column feels like an inspirational corner where we celebrate your talents and creativity. Can't wait for you to dive into it!



THE ART SPELL: SHOWCASING TALENT, PASSION, AND EXPRESSION

The halls may be haunted this October, but the real magic is happening in our Arts Department! Such magic, that can pull us out from any shadow and cobweb, bringing our school community together. Whether it's through music echoing in the halls, art pieces shimmering on the classroom walls, or performances that leave us speechless in Drama 1, our school's Arts Department always finds a way to nurture our talents. This column is dedicated to shinning a light on this community, offering a backstage pass to the world that shapes our school's creative spirit...or should I say ghost?

ARTS CAPTAINS

Every year, the department selects four Year 12 students to each represent one of the house teams as Arts Captains. This year, the responsibility falls into the hands of the following students:

Kenny: Natalie Christofidou

Stone: Ioannis Livanos

Christodoulides: Alexa Michael

Gayford: Marilia Evangelou



The school year that is unfolding entails opportunities for whoever wishes to enter the world of our vibrant arts community, and as an Arts Captain myself, it's my mission to ensure that all students, no matter skill-level or talent, get to enjoy and celebrate their creativity. If it is the first time you step on a stage, pick up a paintbrush, play a note on the piano or voice new ideas to broaden our school's reach into the arts, I promise that there will be space for you! To all readers, the Arts Department is for anyone who wants to express themselves, take their skills to the next level, showcase their hidden talent or anyone who is just amused by watching creativity flourish!

BOO-TIFUL MASTERPIECES: STUDENT

As someone who didn't take Art GCSE, I was genuinely blown away by the incredible talent of my classmates! I would find myself stopping mid-hallway outside the Art room, just to stare at their final artworks, completely fascinated! Their theme for the final art pieces was **"Gatherings"**. Having that in mind while scouring the Art room, allowed me to select two art pieces created by Betty Eliopoulou and Francesca Partassis, that couldn't be more different, not only in physical form but also intention! These are the stories behind their brushstrokes:

BETTY ELIOPOULOU:

What were your first creative thoughts when hearing the theme "Gatherings"?

The first idea I had about "gatherings" was the collection of garbage. I've always found it fascinating that once something is used, we call it garbage, even if it once had value. I believe there is beauty in everything, even in what we throw away. That's why I wanted to give the word "garbage" a new and deeper meaning.

What led you to your final idea and concept?

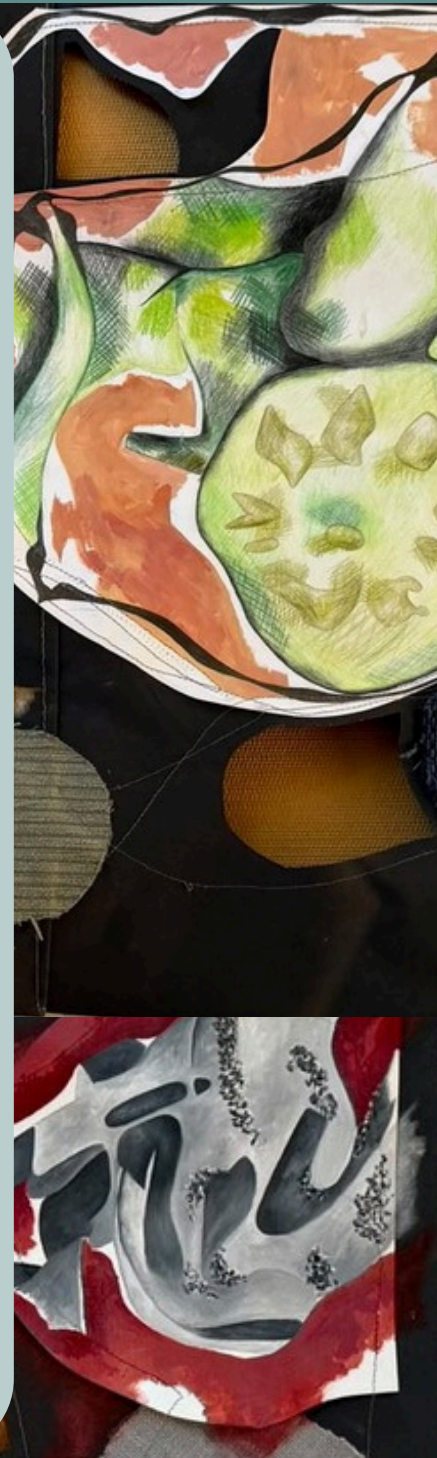
It took me a long time to reach my final idea after many failed attempts at working with mixed media. The only thing I knew from the beginning was that I would use fabrics and different materials, so I concluded by deciding to do this.

What was the idea behind your final art piece?

The idea behind my final is a metaphor about being used. People often act like friends only when they need something, but once you're no longer useful, they throw you away. My work reflects this hidden cycle of need, friendship, and rejection

What were some of the struggles you had to overcome to reach an outcome that would satisfy the idea you had in mind?

One struggle I faced was having too many ideas at once, which made it hard to focus. I kept drifting away from my theme and losing direction. To overcome this, I had to refine my choices, stay consistent, and focus on what best represented my idea.



THE VIRIDIAN

FRANCESCA PARTASSIS:

What were your first creative thoughts when hearing the theme “Gatherings”?

As soon as I received the theme “Gathering”, I immediately thought of the gathering of generations. In other words, family members and relatives, the gathering of our thoughts, senses and emotions based on our surroundings, experiences and memories and how these are affected by age.

What led you to your final idea and concept?

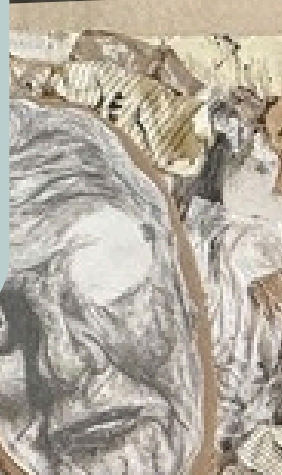
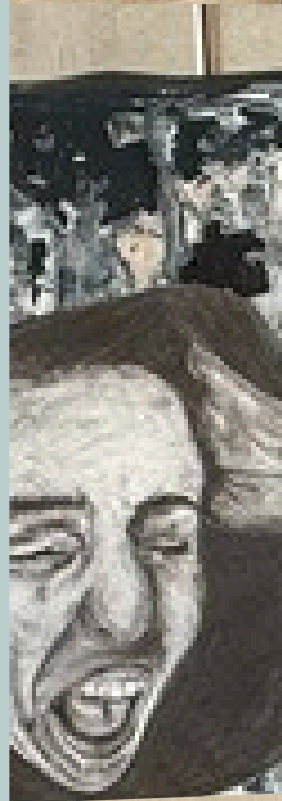
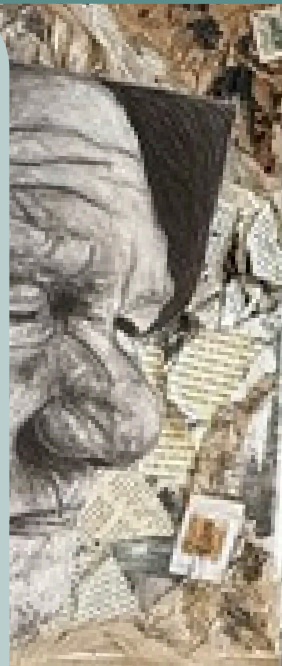
After researching artists, such as Florian Nicolle and Jessica Rimondi, I experimented with their techniques, for example collage, smudged paints and mixed media. I included these techniques in all three of my pieces. Additionally, I looked at Antonio Finelli; a contemporary artist who draws hyper-realistic portraits of elderly people, inspiring me, as his pieces represent the signs of time on the skin.

What was the idea behind your final art piece?

The main idea that I wanted to portray is how people continue to grow, becoming older and wiser, regardless of any difficulties we may experience. You can see the young girl in the middle express frustration. Alternatively, the elderly people beside her clearly present a tranquil and relaxed facial expression, enhancing the idea of how age impacts our thoughts, feelings, as well as our physical appearance.

What were some of the struggles you had to overcome to reach an outcome that would satisfy the idea you had in mind?

What I struggled with was drawing portraits of the elderly that express a clear emotion. Learning how to draw wrinkles on different parts of the face took a lot of practice to master, as well as sketching and structuring correct facial proportions. Practising how to portray intense facial expressions and raw emotions wasn't a straightforward process.



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NEWLY ADDED

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

THE ATTACK OF THE DEAD MEN

WRITTEN BY
ALEXANDROS HADJISYMEOU

THE VIRIDIAN

It is with great pride that *The Viridian* introduces 'Student Spotlight' this year. This section of the magazine will be dedicated to celebrating the work of all the talented students of our school.

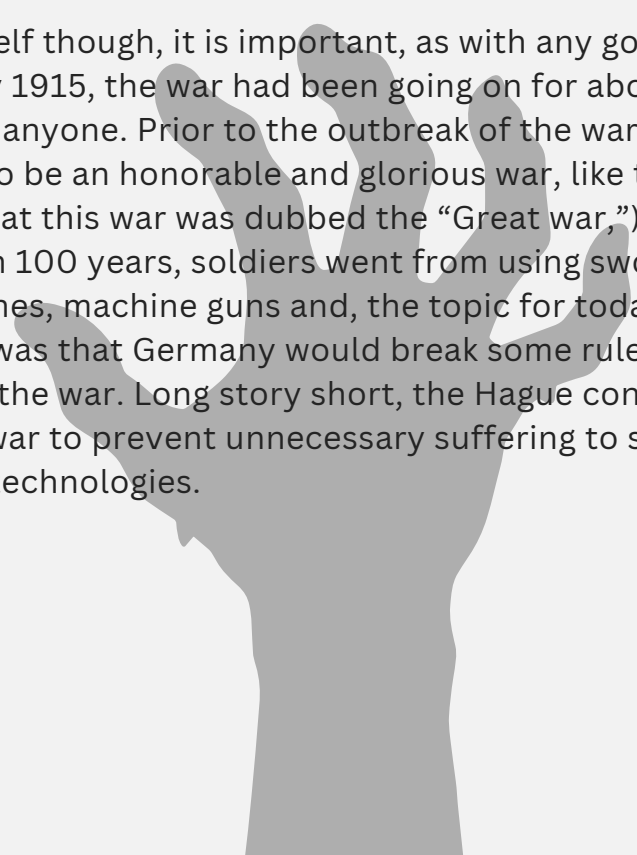
This month, we are pleased to present Year 12 Student, Alexandros Hadjisymeou's chilling "Attack of the Dead Men" article, which gives a spooky historical story dating back to World War I. Alexandros' article provides factual accounts with ominous undertones and witty humour, making it stand out as an exceptional piece of writing.

Bravo, Alexandros!

THE ATTACK OF THE DEAD MEN

Many people nowadays believe that zombies are something of fiction; that there is no way that someone is dead and then, well, isn't. As far as science is concerned, this is true; for now, at least (2025 has been a crazy year so who knows). However, an incident in the First World War shares a striking resemblance to what is humanly impossible to occur.

Before I get ahead of myself though, it is important, as with any good story, to set the stage and give some context. By 1915, the war had been going on for about a year, and things were not looking good for anyone. Prior to the outbreak of the war, nations considered a conflict such as this one to be an honorable and glorious war, like the Napoleonic war 100 years prior (so much so that this war was dubbed the "Great war,"). However, technology developed fast that within 100 years, soldiers went from using swords and muskets to tanks, flamethrowers, planes, machine guns and, the topic for today, chemical weapons. What no one saw coming was that Germany would break some rules that were agreed upon less than 20 years before the war. Long story short, the Hague conventions were meant to establish regulations for war to prevent unnecessary suffering to soldiers due to the sudden invention of new technologies.



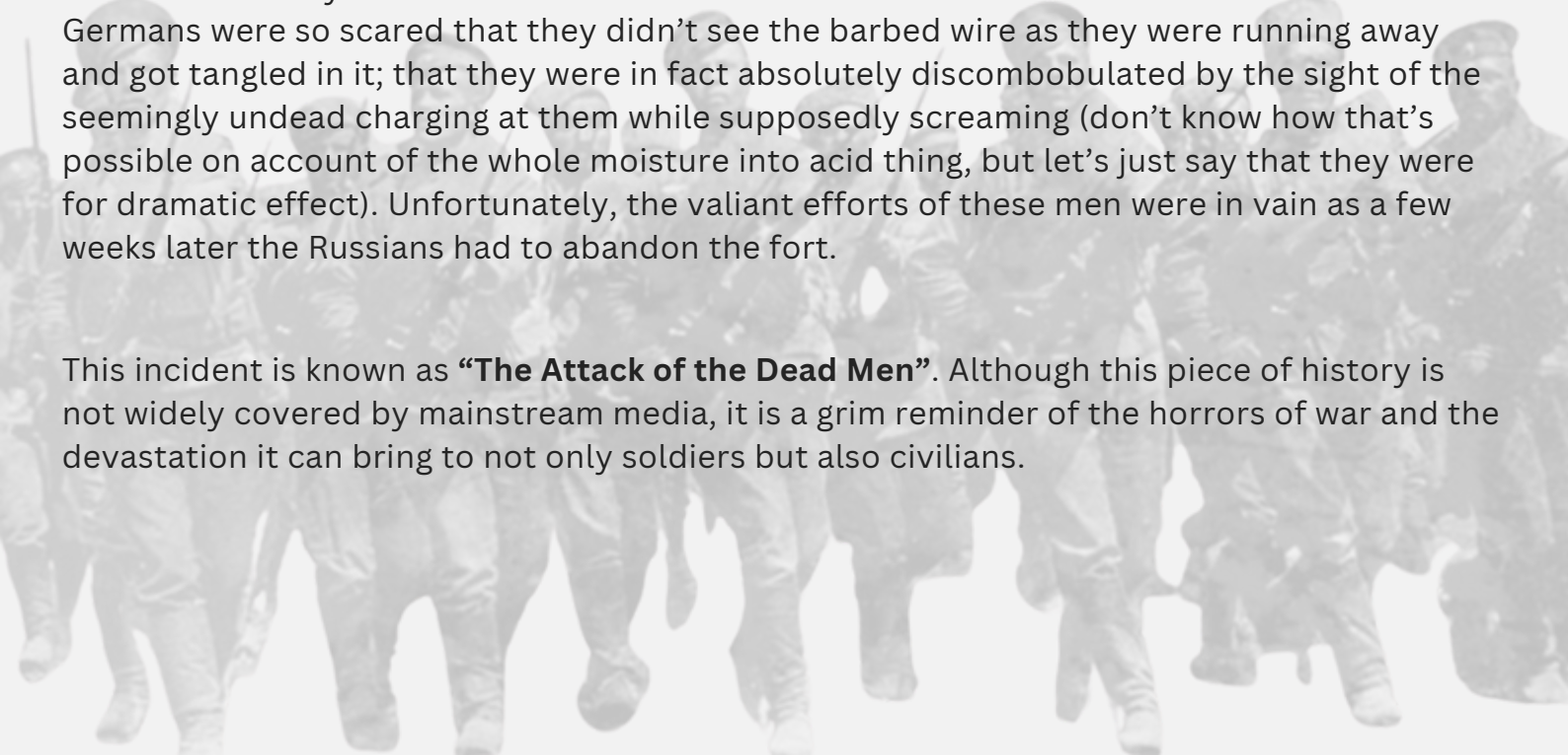
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I think that's enough context for now (you were probably getting tired of a history lesson anyway). So, the German army needed a quick way to knock Russia out of the war so that they could focus on the western front. And what better way to achieve this than with some good, old-fashioned war crimes? As previously mentioned, the Hague conventions prohibited the use of chemical weapons as they caused unnecessary suffering. Evidently, the Germans didn't care and decided to use it anyway in the battle of Ypres. This opened the floodgates for other nations (including the French and the British) to also use chemical weapons and break other rules that were agreed upon. The kaiser, that being the German emperor, ordered for a swift victory over the Russians as by this point the Russians were already on the retreat. He ordered Paul von Hindenburg, yes that Paul von Hindenburg (history people know) to march his troops from east Prussia into Russia (hey that rhymed) until victory was secured.

This is where the good part begins, so pay attention. In what is now present-day Poland, there was a fort which was very crucial for both sides, as it was in a strategic location. This fort was called the Osovetz fort, and it would be more beneficial for the Germans in the long run, to capture it rather than go around it. To lay siege to the fort would be a huge time waster for the Germans, so they just gassed the fort and waited until anything in it was dead. The symptoms of gas exposure are like those presented by google when you search up your headache. Symptoms may include but are not limited to blurred vision, burning sensation, chest tightness, breathing problems, respiratory failure, death and turning all the moisture in the body into acid.

So, the Germans marched into the fort expecting no resistance. Next thing they knew was that about 100 men charging at them with the pointy part of their guns. One soldier described that "They looked horribly. Bearing traces of chemical burns on their faces, wrapped up in rags, they coughed up blood, spitting out pieces of lungs on blooded blouses." We can only imagine how terrified the Germans were at the sight of this. Well, we would know if any of them bothered to write it down. We can infer from the fact that some Germans were so scared that they didn't see the barbed wire as they were running away and got tangled in it; that they were in fact absolutely discombobulated by the sight of the seemingly undead charging at them while supposedly screaming (don't know how that's possible on account of the whole moisture into acid thing, but let's just say that they were for dramatic effect). Unfortunately, the valiant efforts of these men were in vain as a few weeks later the Russians had to abandon the fort.

This incident is known as **"The Attack of the Dead Men"**. Although this piece of history is not widely covered by mainstream media, it is a grim reminder of the horrors of war and the devastation it can bring to not only soldiers but also civilians.



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