

THE VIRIDIAN

# THE VIRIDIAN

NOVEMBER 2025

THE VIRIDIAN

# INDEX

**BOOK CORNER**

ANNA PAVLOWITCH

**MORBID MYSTERIES**

LEONIE WEIDERUD, LOUIZA LIAPIS

**VIDEO ARCHIVES**

NOAH NATHANAEL, SIMONA MITSI

**HISTORY**

DAPHNE LIAPIS, RENEE STROUTHOU

**THE FASHION FIX**

NEFELI VASSILIOU

**PSYCHOLOGY**

EVELINA CHRISTOFOROU, MAYA NATHANAEL

**BEYOND THE SCOREBOARD**

ROHAN STYLIANOS DUBEY

**A DIP IN THOUGHT**

FATIMA SANJAKDAR

**THE ARTS**

MARILIA EVANGELOU

**THE LAYOUT**

SYLVIA MICHAELIDES, ANGELINA LYTRA, ALINA MITSI, BETTY

ELIOPOULOU, EMILY ADAMS

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

SYLVIA MICHAELIDES, NEFELI VASSILIOU, SELINA ELIA,

ROMA THEOCHARIDES, NIKKI NEOCLEOUS, BETTY

ELIOPOULOU, ALEXIS KYRIAKIDES

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

LOUKA DEMANGE

**EDITED BY**

STEPHANOS ARTEMIS, MR. ANTONIOU



THE VIRIDIAN

**BOOK  
CORNER**

**WRITTEN BY  
ANNA PAVLOWITCH**

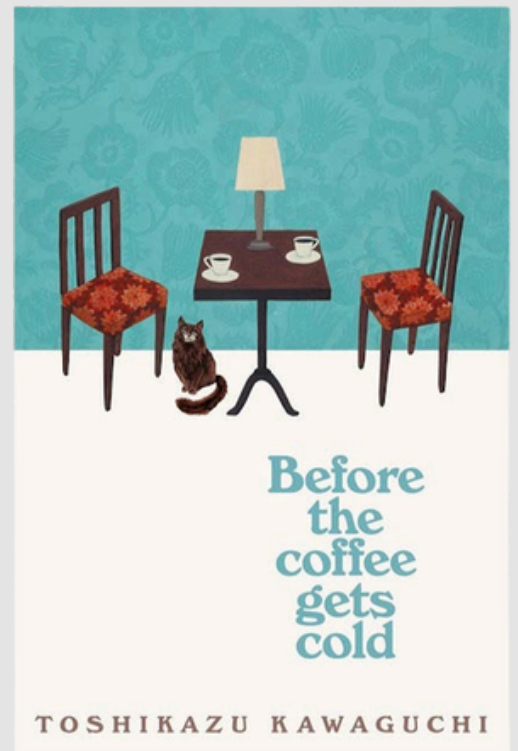
# THE VIRIDIAN

Echoes, an abstract concept, a phenomenon which can both be mesmerisingly beautiful while also an oppressive force, a haunting presence, a reverberating, deafening voice from the past that won't let go. I would say this can apply to all books, as they act, essentially, as the eternal echo of human existence. In this edition, however, I'm limited to three books, so I give you echoes of the memory, echoes of the past and echoes of the pandemic.

## Before the Coffee Gets Cold -Toshikazu Kawaguchi

*"Sometimes life is stranger than fiction, but sometimes it's incomparable in other ways. Sometimes it's heaven that the false fire of imagination could never capture."*

I'll admit it: I don't usually go for books involving strange, fluid concepts, such as time travel and alternate realities. But something told me this book would be different, and I am pleased to say that I trusted my instinct. In a small, modest café in Tokyo, coffee is brewed and coffee is served, as in any other. But instead of free birthday drinks or seasonal deals, what this coffee shop offers is a chance to travel back in time. There is only one rule – you must be back before the coffee gets cold. Visiting the past to confront a former lover, to connect with a husband whose memory has been lost to Alzheimer's, to see a sister one last time, to meet a long-lost daughter, certainly sets out the premise for yet another one of those formulaic, cheap fictions, slightly cheesy but enjoyable novels to read in bed with a cold. Yet this book was different; I won't pretend the time travel element was perfect, made confusing by the incessant piling of new rules and multiple inconsistencies. But at the end of the day, none of this matters, as the heartbreaking stories of these characters shine through the pages and touch the reader to the core. I cried. To me, that is the sign of a good book.



## The Shadow of the Wind -Carlos Ruiz Zafon

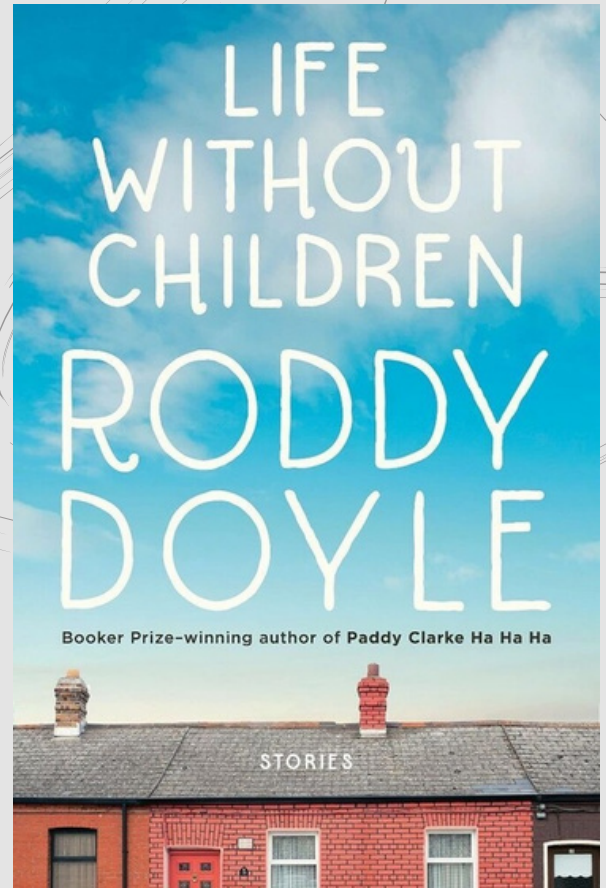
*"One of the pitfalls of childhood is that one doesn't have to understand something to feel it. By the time the mind is able to comprehend what has happened, the wounds of the heart are already too deep."*

This story unfolds in the hardship, repression, and scarcity of 1945 war-torn Barcelona. 10-year-old Daniel is taken by his father to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books where he discovers a mysterious book entitled 'The Shadow of the Wind', written by one Julian Carax. Spellbound by its tantalising plot, he sets off to find the author's other works only to be stopped dead in his tracks by the discovery that every single copy of every single book he had written had been destroyed. Little did he know that this novel would drastically alter the course of his teenage years as he finds himself stripped of his innocence and enshrouded by the darkness and mesmerising secrets that lie beneath its pages. As Daniel is tormented by the deafening echoes of Carax's story, their lives mesh themselves into one. A story of madness, murder, and unconventional love, 'The Shadow of the Wind' is eloquently written and hauntingly beautiful, albeit a tad disturbing.

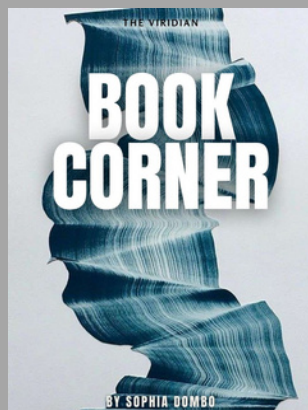
# THE VIRIDIAN

## Life Without Children -Roddy Doyle

2020: The year of the virus, the masks, the hands turned raw from antiseptic, the rapid tests, the surge of cat memes. I always look back on this period of our lives as something rather dystopian, surreal, straight out of a Sci-Fi movie. Well, this was exactly how this book felt. Now, the Covid pandemic has already turned into the subject of historical fiction, so let's dive in. Through these ten short and charming stories, Roddy Doyle paints a brilliantly warm but incredibly raw portrayal of our lives in the shadow of the pandemic. Set in Ireland, this collection tells of the physical, emotional and psychological impact of Covid-19 through the lens of an exhausted nurse, a traveller, a middle-aged son barred from his mother's funeral, and of many more ordinary people whose lives and experiences present a direct reflection of our own. These stories make us realise in fact, that it is the strain of the isolation that we experienced, evoked so poignantly in Doyle's writing, that brings humanity together; in this time of distance and separation we were never truly alone.



Have you read these past editions of  
**Book Corner?**





THE VIRIDIAN

# MORBID MYSTERIES

WRITTEN BY  
LEONIE WEIDERUD AND  
LOUIZA LIAPIS

## THE VIRIDIAN

# ECHOES IN THE ATTIC - BY LEONIE

The sinister echoes of the Hinterkaifeck murders continue to be heard. Standing as one of the most chilling and enigmatic cold cases in German criminal history.

The Hinterkaifeck farmstead was a lonely place. Located outside the Bavarian town of Gröbern, it was the home of the Gruber family, 63-year-old Andreas, his wife Cäzilia, aged 72, their 35-year old widowed daughter Viktoria Gabriel and her two children, 7-year-old Cäzilia and 2-year-old Josef, along with the family maid 44-year-old Maria Baumgartner.

The family was known for keeping to themselves. However, neighbors grew concerned on April 1, 1922, when young Cäzilia missed school, and the entire family failed to show up to the church where Viktoria was a member of the choir. When Cäzilia continued to miss school, and the families mail had begun to pile up at the local post office. The family's neighbors decided to investigate. With Lorenz Schlittenbauer, a farmer who lived nearby, leading the search party.

Upon entering the barn, the search party found four battered bodies covered with hay. Andreas, Cäzilia, Viktoria and the younger Cäzilia, had been killed by blows to the head delivered from a mattock, a pickax-like tool.

Inside the house, they discovered the bodies of 2-year-old Josef and the maid, Maria, she was killed by crosswise blows to the head in her chambers, and Josef by a heavy blow to the face in his cot in Viktoria's room. Like the bodies in the barn, theirs were also covered: Maria's with her sheets, and Josef's with one of his mother's dresses. It had been Maria's first day on the job as the previous maid had abandoned her position due to a fervent belief that the farm was haunted.



However, the farm animals and a watchdog remained unharmed. Besides the bodies and the hay and bedsheets used to cover them, nothing had been disturbed, though the killer clearly remained at the farm for several days, feeding the animals, cooking and eating meals, and lighting fires in the hearth.

When the police questioned the former maid, she stated that she had come to that conclusion of the property being haunted after constantly hearing sounds in the attic and experiencing an unsettling feeling of being watched.

Though Andreas had not believed her, he too had confided in neighbors about some strange happenings in the days before the murders: A newspaper from Munich which none of the Gruber's had bought was found in the home, a set of footsteps were discovered leading from the forest to the farmstead. The footsteps were set in pristine and unmarked snow, leading in only one direction, with nobody knowing who they belonged to, and one of the family's two keys disappeared shortly before the murder.



Most chilling was during a search of the hayloft police discovered evidence that someone had been living there, with haystacks moved, roof tiles removed creating a 'peep-hole', a carpet placed in order to muffle footsteps, along with remains of rinds of smoked meat found near the lookout, and human faces.

Creating a profile of a ruthless intruder taking up residence in the house.

Over the years, numerous theories have surfaced about the identity and motive of the killer. Some believe the murders were an incest cover-up, silencing rumors of an illicit relationship between Andreas Gruber and his daughter Viktoria, whose son Josef was thought to be Andreas's child. Others suspect Viktoria's husband, Karl Gabriel, who was presumed dead in WWI but whose body was never found, may have returned seeking revenge. Neighbour Lorenz Schlittenbauer was also accused, rumored to be Josef's real father. Other theories suggest escaped convicts, occult involvement, or a robbery gone wrong though untouched valuables cast doubt on this idea.

For more than a century, dozens of people have been arrested as suspects in the crimes, though no one has ever been found guilty.

## THE VIRIDIAN

# A SMILE TO ACCOMPANY SOLITUDE - BY LOUISA

Smiling has always been contagious, and the notorious Japanese urban legend of Kuchisake-Ona-the slit-mouthed woman-definitely magnified its infectious nature.

The tale originates in Edo-period Japan, which housed a couple composed of a samurai and a captivating woman; pallid skin contrasting her ink-dark hair deemed her the epitome of beauty, and she knew it.

Her knowledge of the fact enkindled a constant craving for validation from others, eventually driving her to committing adultery. Subsequently, when her husband found out, rage washed over him, vengefully running his blade across her plump cheek, engendering a blood-soaked, grisly grin.

Today she intently roams the streets of Japan, concealing her ghastly scar with a mask, seeking lone travelers, merely to inquire "Do you think I'm pretty?". If the wanderer answers "no" the woman mercilessly murders them. Answering yes, does not significantly alter their fate however, as she will then pull her mask off and repeat her futile question: "Do you still think I'm pretty?". This time, if the unexpected pedestrian answers "no", she mirrors her husband's morbid action and savagely slashes their face. On the contrary if they persist and continue replying with "yes", she lets them free, solely to follow them home and massacre them.

Fortunately, few victims claim they have conjured up a way to escape: if one throws something at her, or states her appearance is average, it will confound her long enough to enable one to escape.

Would you be willing to depend on sheer speculation to save your life though?



THE VIRIDIAN

**VIDEO  
ARCHIVES**

**WRITTEN BY  
NOAH NATHANAEL AND  
SIMONA MITSU**

Along with Simona's pick this month I really believe the November 2026 edition of this newspaper will be remembered for unabashedly blessing the world with the holy trinity of film and TV. Enjoy.

## THE VIRIDIAN

### THE BIG LEBOWSKI (1998) - DIR. JOEL & ETHAN COEN:



The Dude is eternal.

This film echoes relentlessly through my thoughts and by the will of The Viridian it will echo through history. It features, dare I say, the coolest character ever written: a bowling ball wielding, cardigan wearing, White Russian drinking paragon of idiosyncrasy. I desperately wanted his bequest to live on in the form of "The Dude" plastered on the back of my school shirt but nobody would get it - biggest letdown of the 20s so far. At one point in the narrative, a group of Germanic nihilists stand off with The Dude and his pagans. That might be my favourite sentence I've ever written. Steve Buscemi is in this. Philip Seymour Hoffman! Their performances are sacred, and the movie should be treated as such. People don't know this, but one of my most valued pastimes is furtively quoting films in conversation I'm assured the other person haven't seen before. Admittedly, what I'm saying is that half of what I say, Jeff Bridges said first. This movie takes the throne, man.

The Dude abides.

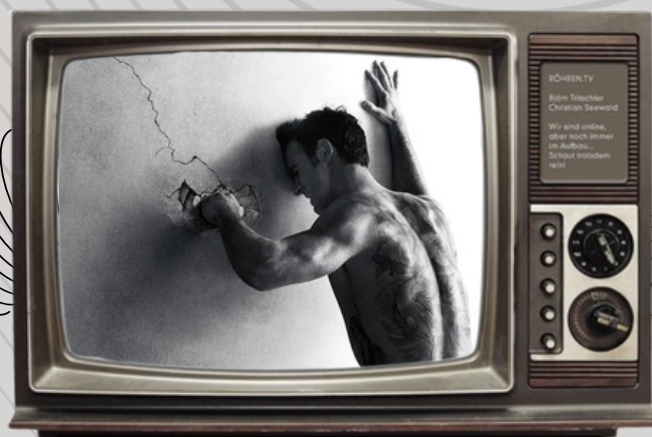
### THE LEFTOVERS (2014-2017) - CREATED BY. DAMON LINDELOF & TOM PERROTTA:

This has nothing to do with theme; it just devoured me this month and the Viridian has become my form of release. Log line: two percent of the worlds population unfoundedly vanishes, leaving all else to live an echo of the lives of those they lost. Echo! There we go. It dips its hand in grief, religion, surrealism, transcendentalism; all the -ism's. The characters are fleshed out, and the show runners are smart enough to have a crisp eight episodes per season and not let it run needlessly for six more, so you already know the writing is good.

By the end of each episode, you will be in emotional cartwheels and very real fetal positions, victim to the parasitic grip of your remote controller questioning your own atonement: What is atonement? What is time? What the hell is that? Time is a flat circle. It isn't real. Nothing is real.

Sorry.

I just rewatched the second season finale from my phone.



# THE VIRIDIAN

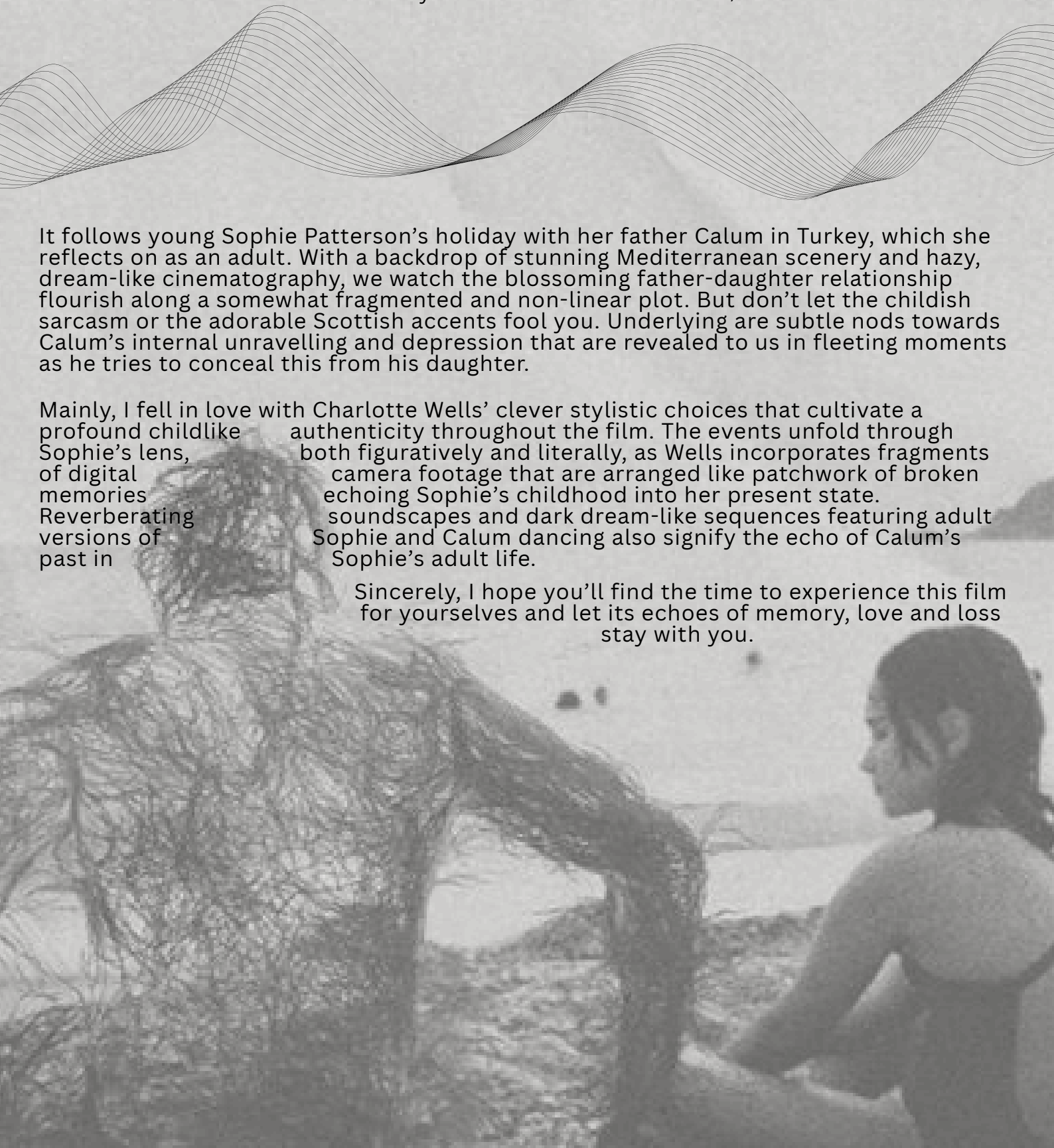
## AFTERSUN (2022) - DIR. CHARLOTTE WELLS

Hey everyone! I'm so glad to have the opportunity to write about this incredible film under the theme of "echoes" and honor Aftersun's quiet brilliance and refreshing originality. Right off the bat, I will disclaim that if you're looking for an action-packed, block-buster recommendation, unfortunately this movie is not for you. The people who will truly adore and share my love for this movie are those who will appreciate the innocent tenderness and quiet power in this sentimental coming-of-age story (and yes, trust me girls, Paul Mescal truly looks better than ever in this).

It follows young Sophie Patterson's holiday with her father Calum in Turkey, which she reflects on as an adult. With a backdrop of stunning Mediterranean scenery and hazy, dream-like cinematography, we watch the blossoming father-daughter relationship flourish along a somewhat fragmented and non-linear plot. But don't let the childish sarcasm or the adorable Scottish accents fool you. Underlying are subtle nods towards Calum's internal unravelling and depression that are revealed to us in fleeting moments as he tries to conceal this from his daughter.

Mainly, I fell in love with Charlotte Wells' clever stylistic choices that cultivate a profound childlike authenticity throughout the film. The events unfold through Sophie's lens, both figuratively and literally, as Wells incorporates fragments of digital camera footage that are arranged like patchwork of broken memories echoing Sophie's childhood into her present state. Reverberating soundscapes and dark dream-like sequences featuring adult versions of Sophie and Calum dancing also signify the echo of Calum's past in Sophie's adult life.

Sincerely, I hope you'll find the time to experience this film for yourselves and let its echoes of memory, love and loss stay with you.





THE VIRIDIAN

# HISTORY

WRITTEN BY  
DAPHNE LIAPIS AND  
RENEE STROUTHOU

# THE VIRIDIAN

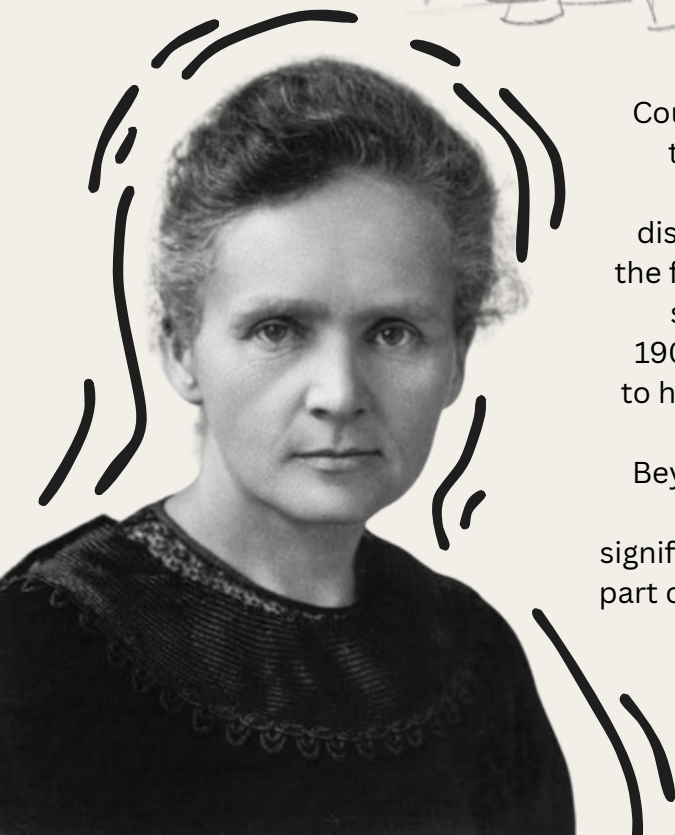
## ECHOES FROM THE PAST

Throughout history, many famous people have consciously and subconsciously intertwined their beliefs and values into the average person's life. However, some have made such an immense impact, that their ideas and decisions will remain timeless, echoing into the future. Not only have these people shaped the world into what it is today, but they have also inspired young people to think, to prosper and to challenge the things around them.

Philosophy is a diachronic notion, and throughout history many expressed their ideas on notions such as morality and ethics, with one of the most renowned being **Socrates**.

Have you ever heard your teacher say "Use your critical thinking?" Well, if you have, you can thank Socrates for that.

He was a Greek philosopher who lived in Athens in 399 BCE and he created what is known as the Socratic method, which deviated from the stereotypical teaching methods in class, and instead allowed teachers to ask open-ended questions, which would engage students, heightening their critical thinking. This is a method which is incredibly vital to today's learning, being used by virtually every teacher. It does indeed help students achieve higher results, whilst also aiding them to understand different concepts due to the fact that they are actually engaged in the lesson. In addition to this, he also challenged the traditional virtues and qualities in people, and also questioned people's values and beliefs, which are foundational in making up the way philosophy is perceived today.



Could you imagine the medical world without X-rays? Well, thanks to two-time Nobel prize winner, **Marie Curie**, you don't have to.

Curie's groundbreaking research on radioactivity led to her discovery of the elements polonium and radium, while also laying the foundation for many modern medical treatments. Not only was she the first woman to win a Nobel prize, which she achieved in 1903 for physics, but to this day she also remains the only person to have won two Nobel prizes in two different categories, receiving the chemistry prize in 1911.

Beyond her scientific work, Marie Curie played an essential role in the fight for equality for women. Her pioneering work broke significant barriers for other women to show that they could also be part of male dominated fields. Today, she is thanked for not only her scientific work but also the impact she has had on women and cultures.

# THE VIRIDIAN

In a society where anyone can be recognized as an important figure there is one woman that forever will be known for her true bravery, charm and for shaping people's morals for the better: The Queen of people hearts, The People's Princess and Lady Di. To this day **Princess Diana** is celebrated for her sincere and genuine interest in others and her remarkable charity work, having been involved with over 100 charities primarily focusing on AIDS awareness, cancer research and homelessness. Lady Di provided housing for the homeless youth aged 16-25, raised over one million pounds for cancer research and helped humanize AIDS patients in 1987 when she famously shook the hand of a patient without wearing any gloves. Decades after her death, Princess Diana remains an inspiration and her compassionate actions are still admired and respected all around the world.



Another example is **Nelson Mandela**. Undoubtedly, he is known for his peaceful yet determined stance against racism and discrimination. He was the president of South Africa during the system of Apartheid, which he was highly against. This led to him becoming an active member of the African National Congress (ANC), a political group in South Africa which emphasized equality for all races. After taking on a lead role in the ANC, he organized many peaceful protests that unfortunately did not align with the ideas of the authorities, leading to him being arrested. However, after his liberation, he was elected president, and continued put pressure on the South African government to end apartheid and to promote equality. Through this, he ameliorated the voting system in South Africa, allowing everyone to have a say. He even wrote a book, expressing his struggles, so people could comprehend how harsh the conditions were in South Africa. He passed away over a decade ago, but his firm determination is still remembered, as he was able to amend the limited power some people had, making it more accessible and more democratic.

**Whether a celebrity, a scientist or a politician, there are many people whose echoes still roam around our society. Their ideas, actions and values continue to influence the way we think, act and view the world around us. Their achievements and struggles have shaped cultures and inspired new generations.**



THE VIRIDIAN

**THE  
FASHION FIX**

**WRITTEN BY  
NEFELI VASSILIOU**

## THE VIRIDIAN

# ORIGINALITY IS DEAD: I CAN HEAR THE ECHO, AND IT'S NOT PROMISING

If I see one more runway show or celebrity red carpet look labelled as an “Homage, ” or “Inspired by, ” the work of a previous designer or celebrity, I might just have an aneurysm, because, no, you’re not trying to honour the original, you just have zero authentic ideas. Everything has become an echo of something that was done in the past, and it’s driving the fashion industry insane. It’s not revolutionary, it’s just plain boring.

**Hear me out:** I’m not asking for a designer to lock themselves away in a room and emerge out of it with a totally unique, original piece. That isn’t possible – fashion, design, and art do not exist in a vacuum. Everything is inherently connected to, or influenced by, past artists. The problem is that, more often than not, what the public refers to as “Reference, ” is actually just a blatant copy of something ripped out of its original context for the sake of aesthetics or “Legacy.” The people are begging for innovation, and large luxury fashion holding groups, such as LVMH, aren’t willing to give it.

Celebrities are sporting recycled outfits to red carpet events, and fashion houses have resorted to clinging onto their former glory in each new collection.

**Some examples include:**

### Chanel’s Never-Ending Tweed Loop



They built their brand on it, I get that, and I’m also aware that Coco Chanel is probably rolling in her grave right now, but you can only rely on tweed suits and pearl accents so much. These are a part of Chanel’s DNA, but there’s a difference between signature and stagnation. Every season we get a new collection which claims to have completely re-invented the classic tweed, but each time, it’s the same old story. Change can be made, don’t be lazy.

### Sabrina Carpenter’s Recycled Red Carpet Looks

I’m not here to review her music, that’s Alexa’s job. Sabrina’s situation is representative of something that so many women face in the industry. There’s a pressure to constantly be relevant, to keep that momentum going as a popstar, and this colours some of these referential choices as easy ways to generate press. She’s essentially reheating someone else’s nachos over and over again, but it gets to a certain point. From her vogue cover to her red carpet looks, it’s getting repetitive and frankly exhausting to look at



# THE VIRIDIAN

Thankfully, there are a handful of designers who dare to create something that feels genuinely new. These people refuse to chase trends, or ride on nostalgia.

Take **Elie Saab**. He is one of the only people who can successfully balance inspiration and innovation. Before you come at me with your sticks and your pitchforks, yes, some of Saab's designs echo past silhouettes, but what sets him apart is the way he transforms these references. Every single one of his creations involves intricate details, and this sort of romantic elegance that has become unmistakably his own. He refuses to copy.



Another significant development was **Milan Fashion Week** in late September. New voices took centre stage: Dario Vitale for Versace, Louise Trotter for Bottega Veneta, and Demna for Gucci, are all new or recently shifted creative directors. There have never been so many creative director shifts at once, and industry experts are calling it "*The revolving door.*" Driven by market pressures, the evolving role of designers, and the demand for constant re-invention, the runway was dominated by craftsmanship, texture and daring details. This is the beginning, but it's not nearly enough.

For as long as money controls the industry, authenticity will continue to be suppressed. It takes much less capital and effort to recycle an old idea rather than coming up with something unique. Innovation is gone because of the risk of losing money. Nostalgia works because we're looking back to a time when things were less saturated with marketing. Money is literally everything. Unless this changes, it will only get worse from here. We need fresh faces in the industry and investment in independent fashion houses so we can break out of this cycle.

Every time an uninspired "The daughter of," and "The son of," becoming "The face of", an angel dies. There's an originality recession, and only the Alexander McQueens and Elie Saabs of the world can save us. These people are self-made and weren't conveniently born into a wealthy or powerful family. They bring hope and push the industry forward to a more inclusive and more creative future.

THE VIRIDIAN

# PSYCHOLOGY

WRITTEN BY  
EVELINA CHRISTOFOROU AND  
MAYA NATHANAEL

# ECHO CHAMBERS

An echo chamber, as daunting as it may sound, is a metaphor for an environment where a person only encounters information or opinions that reflect and reinforce their own. It is also a psychological environment that subtly reshapes how we think, feel, and interact with the world. An atmosphere of like-minded individuals, expressing extreme views, could have profound consequences on the human mind. Beyond reinforcing beliefs, echo chambers can distort perception, heighten emotions, and narrow empathy. Psychologists have identified several effects that illustrate this phenomenon.

### CONFIRMATION BIAS AND COGNITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Being surrounded by views like your own, intensify the human tendency to seek, interpret and remember information that align with your existing beliefs. This repeated validation allows individuals to filter out opposing views, as well as portraying them as irrational and threatening. A continuous exposure to this confirming information builds a neural reinforcement, deeply ingrained in the brain, connected to these beliefs, making it increasingly resistant to change. This all results to diminishing your openness to alternative perspectives and critical reflection. Individuals become more certain of their opinions' accuracy, even when those beliefs lack objective or factual support.

### GROUP POLARIZATION AND EXTREMITY OF BELIEFS

Group Polarization is a psychological phenomenon where people's opinions or attitudes become more extreme after discussing them within a group of like-minded individuals. When individuals with similar perspectives interact, their shared discussions often push them toward more extreme positions, due to emotional validation from peers and the absence of dissenting voices. Psychologically, this occurs because agreement within a group enhances feelings of certainty and belonging. The innate desire for acceptance leads members to express stronger versions of their opinions, which gradually shifts the group's overall stance further from the center.

### EMOTIONAL CONTAGION AND HEIGHTENED NEGATIVITY

When in an Echo Chamber, there is a risk of developing the emotions of those around you. Due to the sharing of strong and passionate beliefs, emotions such as anger and frustration may float around and spread quickly amongst peers. This is often seen in social media, where the algorithm will push more emotive posts, that align with your views, to see more engagement, thus eliciting strong emotional responses that are often exaggerated and illogical. This could have clear psychological impact, causing distress and reduce empathy for those who disagree.

### IDENTITY FUSION AND LOSS OF INDIVIDUAL PERSPECTIVE

Identity fusion is when a person's sense of self becomes deeply rooted into their community. In Echo Chambers people begin to see these reinforced views as who they are as opposed to just beliefs. This sense of loyalty creates a vulnerable environment which allows no criticism. There is a creation of an "Us vs Them" mentality, creating clear divisions between groups. You start to lose individuality, and the need for acceptance grows stronger, therefore It becomes difficult to question the group's ideas, even when they might be wrong or extreme.

# THE VIRIDIAN

## REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING AND COGNITIVE RIGIDITY


People are exposed to one point of view; this limits the need for critical thinking or doubt. Information is simplified, often seen in black and white terms with no allowance for grey areas. When everyone agrees, there's no analysis on different beliefs or thoughts. Your cognitive functions become inflexible, you struggle to accept new or opposing information, it becomes easier to stick with familiar ideas. This leads to closed-mindedness and weaker problem-solving skills.

## SOCIAL VALIDATION AND DOPAMINE REINFORCEMENT

Social validation is something everyone desires, so when a group of people support your views, your brain releases dopamine, a chemical linked to pleasure and reward. This becomes an addictive loop. Whether it is making a post to gain likes or supportive comments or going to group events to discuss your opinions. People learn to share opinions that match the group's beliefs because it earns them praise and belonging. Over time this can reduce authenticity, as individuals learn to mold their thoughts or exaggerate them into something that will be rewarded. The truth becomes less valuable than fitting in.

You may think this irrelevant to you, but you are living in an Echo Chamber through Social media, where Platforms use algorithms to show posts like ones you have liked, shared or commented on and often filter out those which challenge your beliefs, creating a personalized feed. People naturally join groups, pages, or follow accounts that share their views. These spaces become digital echo chambers, where disagreement is rare and conformity is rewarded.





THE VIRIDIAN

**BEYOND THE  
SCOREBOARD**

**WRITTEN BY  
ROHAN STYLIANOS DUBEY**

# THE VIRIDIAN

## OLD CHEERS, NEW CHAMPIONS

Sports have been around for centuries with the first sport allegedly being invented over 15,000 years ago. With all these years of sports being played and celebrated throughout the world over all these years, its logical that some families would share a sport, maybe even playing it professionally together. Some of todays athletes have had fathers, mothers, a family history behind them in their sport, and when they take their turn at playing it, its like an echo from the past.

### MICK SCHUMACHER (F1 2021-2022)

Michael Schumacher was an F1 driver between 1991–2006 and 2010–2012. He's regarded by many as the greatest F1 driver ever, with seven world championships and 91 wins under his belt. His legacy didn't end when he left the track - it lived on through his son, Mick Schumacher, who grew up surrounded by the roar of engines and the glory his father achieved that defined his father's career. Early in his racing journey, Mick competed under his mother's maiden name, "Mick Betsch," to avoid the spotlight that came with being Michael Schumacher's son. As he rose through the junior categories and eventually winning the Formula 2 title in 2020, Mick earned a Formula 1 seat in 2021, fans and media viewed his debut as a deeply emotional moment – the Schumacher name returning to the grid for the first time in nearly a decade, however some fans criticized Mick's Formula 1 seat as that being that he only earned it because of his father. Although the expectations were immense, Mick carried himself with humbleness and focus, striving to carve out his own identity while continuing the legacy his father built before his tragic skiing accident in 2013. Unfortunately Mick Schumacher's Formula 1 career was short lived, competing in only 2 seasons of F1, with some saying ( me included) that the pressure of having a father like Micheal Schumacher in the sport before him got to him and sometimes underperformed. Although in my opinion his team, HAAS F1 team, was one of the weaker teams on the Formula 1 grid, I can see why people felt as though he underperformed, however I do not blame Mick for feeling the pressure because trying to make a career in a sport while your father is regarded as an all time great is something very arduous.



# THE VIRIDIAN

## STEPHEN CURRY (NBA 2009- TODAY)

Stephen Curry's journey to becoming one of the greatest basketball players of all time started way before he ever stepped onto an NBA court. It began by watching his father, Dell Curry. Dell played in the NBA for over a decade, from 1986-2002, known for being an exceptional shooter, being rated as one of the most prolific 3-point shooters in NBA history, a trademark that would be passed down to his son. As a kid, Steph spent hours in the gym with his dad, rebounding during warm-ups and copying his shooting form. Those early moments built his love for basketball and taught him the value of hard work and patience. When Steph reached the NBA, many people doubted him because of his size and unusual playing style, but he used those lessons from his father to keep improving. Over time, he developed his own way of playing, changing how basketball is played today with his incredible long-range shooting. Even though Steph has become a global superstar, he often credits Dell for shaping his foundation, not just as a player, but as a person. Every time Steph hits one of his famous three-pointers, it feels like a small echo of his father's influence.



## SIGNIFICANT SPORTING EVENTS THAT HAPPENED IN NOVEMBER:

### Football

November 25, 2020: Diego Maradona passes away, sparking global tributes to one of football's greatest icons.

### Basketball

November 1, 1996: Kobe Bryant makes his NBA debut at age 18, beginning one of the greatest careers in basketball.

### American Football

November 23, 1984: Doug Flutie's "Hail Mary" pass gives Boston College a last-second win over Miami, one of college football's most iconic plays.

### Formula 1

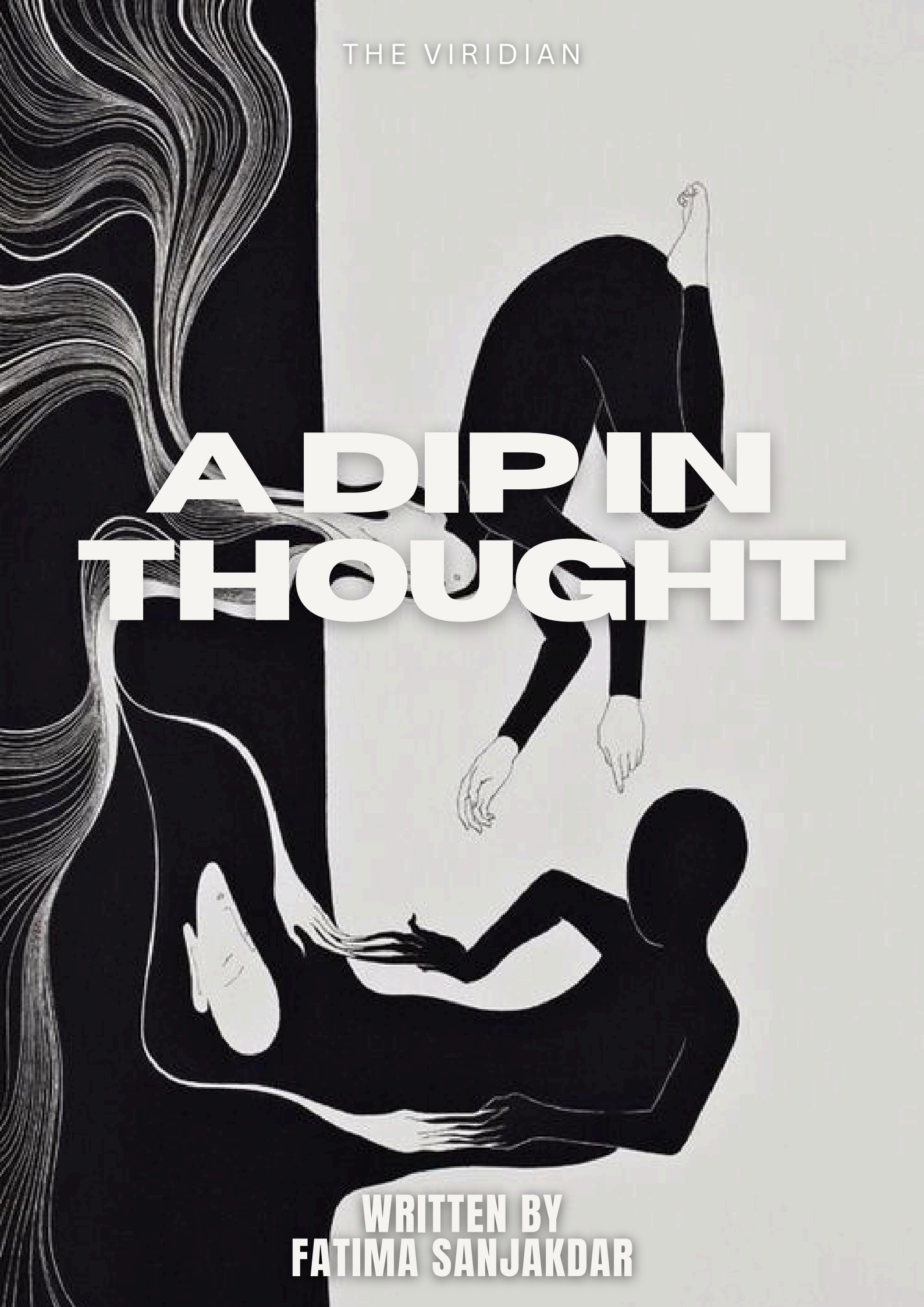
November 21, 2004: Michael Schumacher wins his final race for Ferrari, closing one of the most dominant eras in F1.

### Rugby

November 2, 2019: South Africa wins the Rugby World Cup, defeating England under captain Siya Kolisi, a powerful moment for equality and national pride.

To sum it up, athletes that follow their family footsteps carry more than just a name, they carry stories, expectations and a whole lot of pressure. Most athletes see this as a burden pushing them down and they fail to realise that it is actually a sense of purpose that can lift them to greater heights. Some athletes fail to see it in this way while others manage to recognise the "burden" as what it is, a chance, and they strive in their respective sports.

THE VIRIDIAN



# A DIP IN THOUGHT

WRITTEN BY  
FATIMA SANJAKDAR

# SILENCE HAS A VOICE OF ITS OWN

**In ancient and modern philosophy alike, the notion of silence is fraught with associations to ethics, politics, and spirituality. In all its aspects, the impact of silence is ubiquitous for the footprints of character, beliefs, and intention it leaves behind.**

Silence can be regarded as compliance, specifically in times of political crises, or even minor injustices, which makes it a significant ethical concept. It has been engrained in us since our childhood by our teachers and parents that we should speak out in cases such as bullying. The concept is that we should actively oppose injustice and advocate for fairness, and this is done by breaking our silence to convey our beliefs. Undoubtedly, this principle translates into other moral dilemmas that we face on a daily basis, such as theft, discrimination and dishonesty. Neglecting the consequences of these occurrences is not a neutral approach, but instead an endorsement of the unacceptable actions. In many schools of thought such as Buddhism, it is taught that the intention behind an action is what defines its moral weight. Therefore, it is difficult to differentiate between active and passive complacency, since action and inaction are both tolerative of the issue at hand. In terms of a simple, common example such as bullying, it can be argued that ignoring the situation is morally equivalent to supporting the perpetrator. Similarly, this can reveal a character flaw since, in many cases, the lack of outspokenness is a result of fear of escalating the situation or of oneself becoming a victim. If one's morality is shattered when faced with fear, it becomes a reflection of a weak moral compass.

Similarly, politics creates a medium for controversy, debate, and conflict. One link of silence within the political field is the dilemma of civilians' forced agreement to policies put in place by lawmakers, which citizens may resent. Despite the modern western belief that democracy is the most effective form of government, many people may argue that the execution of democracy is not of the same calibre as the ideology itself. To take an extreme example, the act of repression of a group or population by a government is deemed as unethical and condemned by the UNHRC. Counterintuitively, in these cases, suppression of speech and the limiting of freedom of thought or expression strips victims of the ability to demand change or demonstrate dissatisfaction, especially when threatened with severe consequences such as death. But what about the rest of us? Doesn't the same principle of morality and outspokenness apply whether injustice occurs in the schoolyard or across the globe? We live in a digital world where both occur right in front of our eyes. This quandary is not only relevant to the individual but is also faced by cooperations or even nations. An unfavourable response could lead to the loss of money, alliances and publish outrage. Similarly, a lack of response could yield the same consequences. In this example, it becomes conspicuous how silence can be perceived as an opinion on its own.

# THE VIRIDIAN

It is not a contemporary belief that silence is a gateway to self-discovery and awareness. In Hindu and Buddhist traditions, meditation is an integral component to enlightenment- a state of true understanding of oneself and the world. In today's world, this principle appears to be as relevant as ever. With a constant direct line of connection to the whole world due to the internet, it is very rare for us to experience true silence. Not just the absence of sound, but also the calming of the mind and focus on the present. The Buddha taught Sunyatta, the concept of emptiness, and expressed its importance when it comes to reflection and wisdom. When our minds clear and our thoughts settle like sand in an hourglass, the buzzing and lingering echoes of the world around us are silences and, instead, we are left with a void which we can fill with unbiased ruminations about our lives and replace worries with manifestations of positivity. For both spiritual and non-spiritual people alike, silence can prove to form a surprisingly meaningful connection between an individual and the world around them. As Nietzsche said,

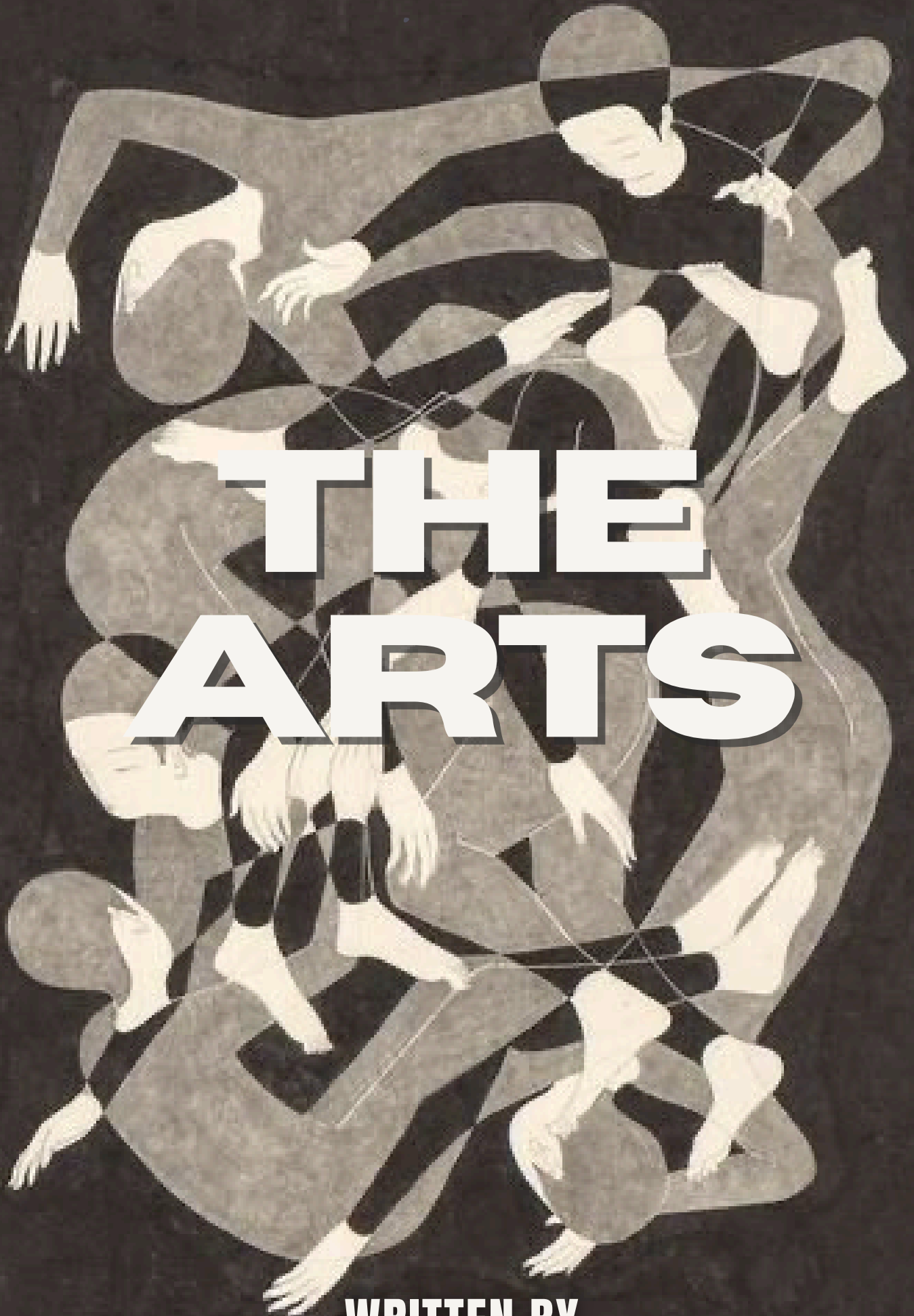
***"The most silent hour is the happiest hour"***



To utilize silence effectively is to recognize its dual nature. Whether it manifests as a refusal to speak against injustice or as a moment of self reflection, it continues to echo across the void it creates, reminding us that what is left unsaid is more authentic than what is constructed to be expressed



THE VIRIDIAN



# THE ARTS

WRITTEN BY  
MARILIA EVANGELOU

THE VIRIDIAN

# IF THE SCHOOL WALLS COULD ECHO

**ECHO: A MYTH SPOKEN ONCE BUT REPEATED FOR ETERNITY**

Shhhh...If you listen closely, you'll still be able to hear her; a whisper in the back of our minds, striving to come forth and escape from our lips, wanting us to use our creativity as a weapon of expression – the fading voice of Echo. The Greeks said she was a nymph who loved the wrong person too deeply. And for that she was punished, forced to repeat the words of others, but never her own. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? But her story doesn't end in the past, it ripples through time and finds refuge in every act of creation. For what is art, if not a repetition of what was once heard, seen, or felt? In her endless reply, we find the pulse of creativity within ourselves. Art never really fades away, it transforms, like energy, it repeats itself not out of laziness but longing, again and again, into something that still speaks infinitely.

## **ECHOES OF IDENTITY: THE A-LEVEL PERFORMANCE**

An echo is how silence remembers sound, how absence learns to speak. In this year's Year 13 Drama A-Level performance, I watched this metaphor take form through movement, voice and presence, a fragmentation and reconstruction of self-experienced Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID). DID is a mental health condition, characterised by the presence of two or more distinct identities or personal states in a singular individual. These identities are echoes of the core self, however they are transformed and reborn differently into an individual realm, with different names, age, and personality characteristics, each controlling the body of the core self at different times with no knowledge of the actions of the other identities once they are no longer holding the steering wheel. DID is usually caused by trauma endured during childhood, and the main character of their piece, Maeve, was a clear representation of just that. With the incredible use of lighting, costume, and set all designed by three different students.

Christalla Michail (sound design)  
Emmelia Karis (costume design)  
Olivia Neophitou (lighting design),

along with an impressive combination of physical movement their intentions came to life and vibrated through the audience. As for their acting skills, many congratulations to.

Evelina Christoforou  
Maia Symeonides  
Stephanie Liasis  
And guest starring Harry Holding.

# THE VIRIDIAN

No words can describe the talent captured in a 25 minute piece. An encapsulating and drawing feeling of admiration held over every single person in that room, allowing us to absorb any tiny detail within dialogue, staging, and physicality that added to the general atmosphere of awe. What I find truly admirable is the amount of research that must have been conducted, to provide such an intellectually woke and influential performance. Don't get me wrong, it is not something that has never been done before or will never be done again, but if you're asking me, this adds value instead of taking it away. It shows the awareness of the youth in such overlooked and "Taboo," societal topics, that most prefer to sweep under the rug instead of speak out about them; such visibility gives the opportunity for progress – it is not a simple act of repetition, but an echo for change.

## ECHOES OF OURSELVES : THE WELCOME PARTY

Banksy, one of the most opinionated and influential artists of our time, once made the statement, "What we do in life echoes through eternity." What if I told you that performing at your school's silly little welcome party has now made you a subject of what Banksy was referring to? If you make a simple Google search about the bands that participated in the Welcome Party, you will most likely find a picture, a video, or even the name of one of the bands that performed. Yes, it is that easy to gain a bit of recognition and fame! The vibrations of the speakers, playing the music that YOU wrote, has echoed louder than you think! This is a sign, an encouragement, and a motivation to put yourself out there and push your talents to the limit, because you don't know how far they can take you. Even if you feel that your influence is minimal, setting up a selling booth at the Welcome Party, performing on stage or staying a bit longer to clean up afterwards, don't think that your actions are lost in the blend of loud voices in a crowd– they are highlighted even further, while adding volume to the united echo!

# THE VIRIDIAN



**Thank you for reading this month's edition!  
Stay tuned for our the holiday edition, out soon!**



**FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!**  
**@SENIORSCHOOLVIRIDIAN**



**FOLLOW US ON TIKTOK!**  
**@THESSVIRIDIAN**