

daróg



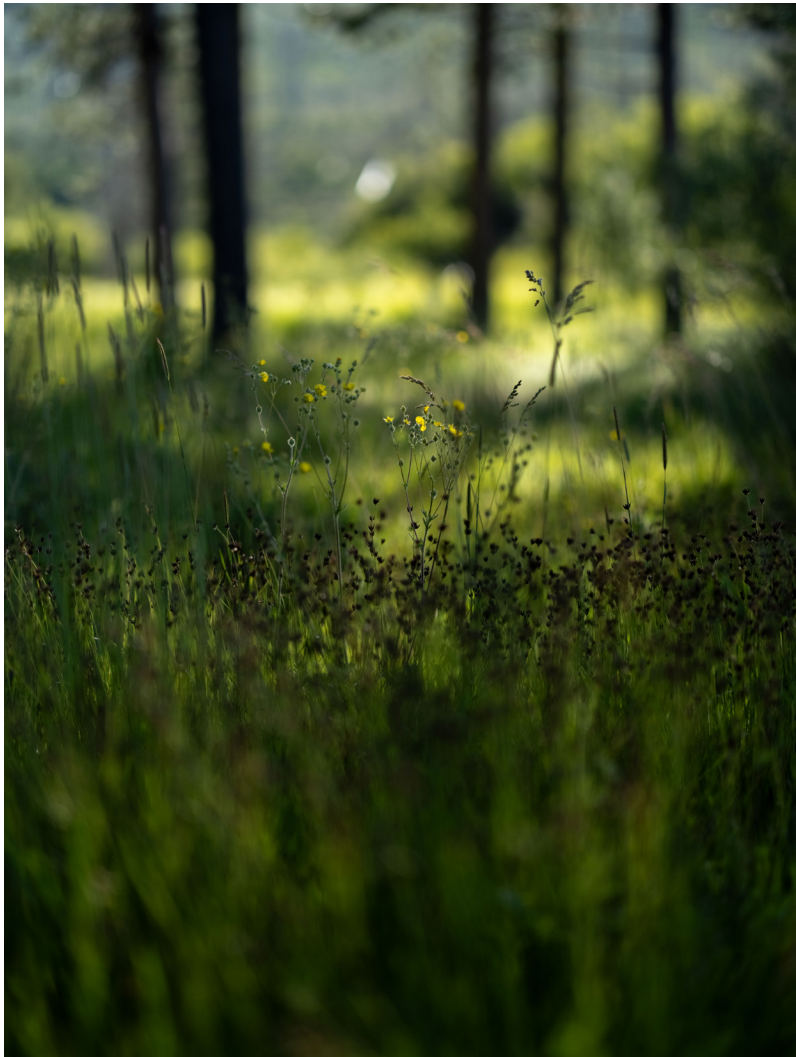




*darling, with the glowing eyes:
beloved and lichen-encrusted Psychopomp
ancient deity, friend to all microscopic lifeforms
decoder of limp heartbeats that Quiver the undersea cables
(May your Eternal Wave Compressor remain Fully Functional)*

*do you read me?
i feel like a whirligig merry-go-round
tonguing the same sore spots.
my orange heart wants to burn brighter
and my coccyx longs to be a jewel.*

*darling, this i ask of You:
help me to remember we are inherently connected -
concentric spirals in the same ecosystem.
and the good i see in you
is the good you see in me.*



the marsh i. Hayden Wilkinson, digital photo





**I AM TIRED OF COMING OUT
DO PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW ME?
ALL OF ME?
DO THEY REALLY WANT TO KNOW?**


**IF YOU ASK
AND THEN TELL ME
THATS TOO CONFUSING
THAN WHY DID YOU EVEN ASK
YOU CLEARLY DONT REALLY WANT TO KNOW**

**SO WHY SHOULD I TELL MY COWORKERS
MY BOSS. STRANGERS. OR EVEN MY FAMILY
IF I DONT TELL THEM
THEY CANT DISSAPOINT ME**

**BUT IF I FINALLY WORK UP THE COURAGE
TO TELL THEM WHO I AM
AND THEY DONT EVEN TRY
TO CALL ME BY MY PREFERRED PRONOUNS
THEY ARE GOING TO BREAK MY HEART
AND VULNERABILITY
IS EXHAUSTING**



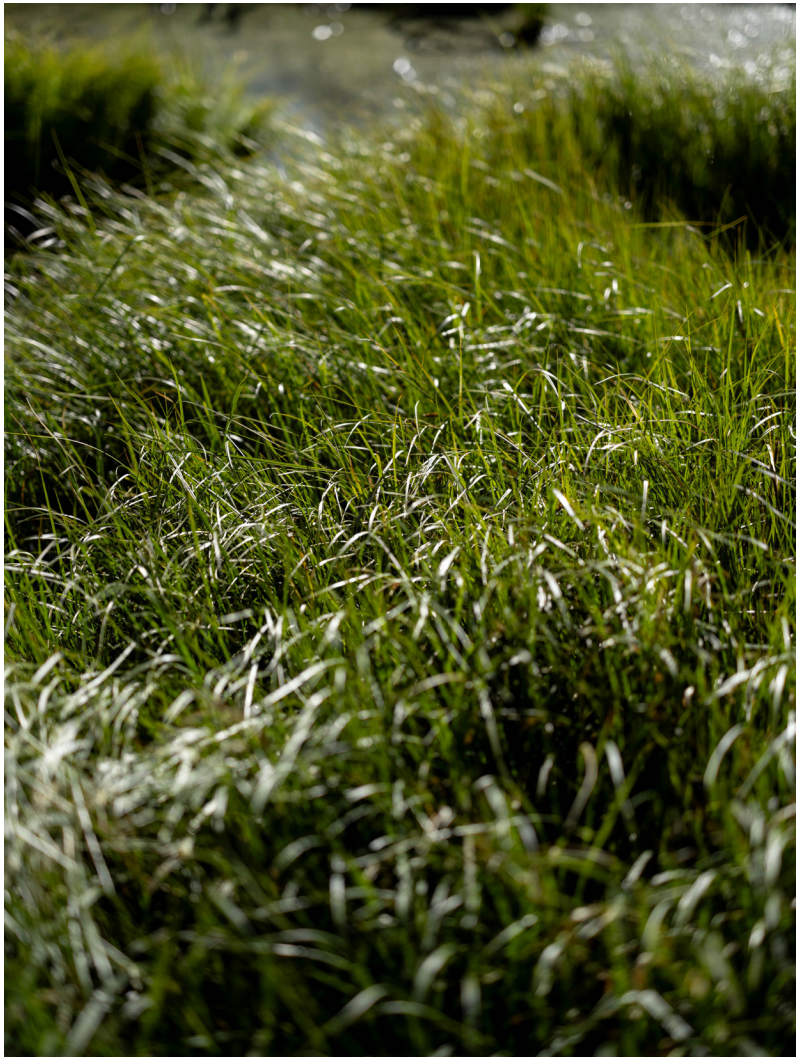





**Why do i have to explain myself
Over and over
Why cant we just
assume androgynous and bisexual
Until proven otherwise**

**Why must heterosexuality
And the gender binary
Be the default**

**Im tired of it
Im tired of thinking about my gender
Wondering how people will receive it
How i can explain myself**





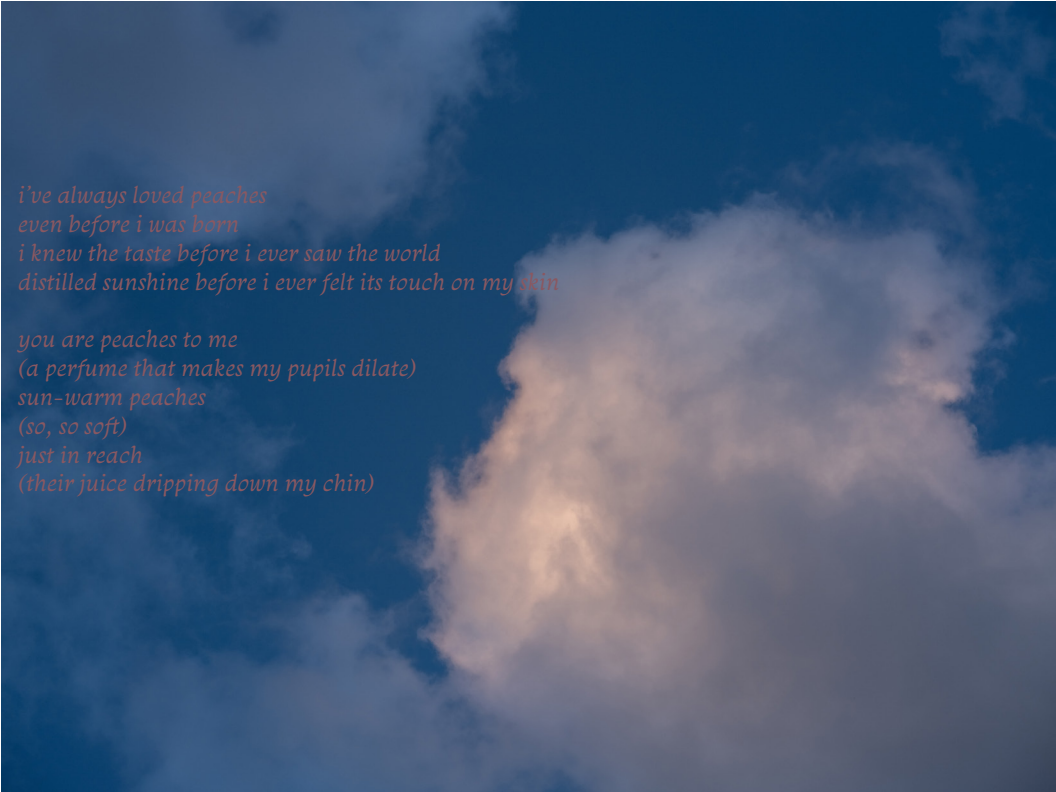


**Are you burning with curiosity?
If you really want to understand me
If you want to connect
I would be happy to tell you
Everything**

**But be warned
If i start telling you one thing
About myself
It all might come out**

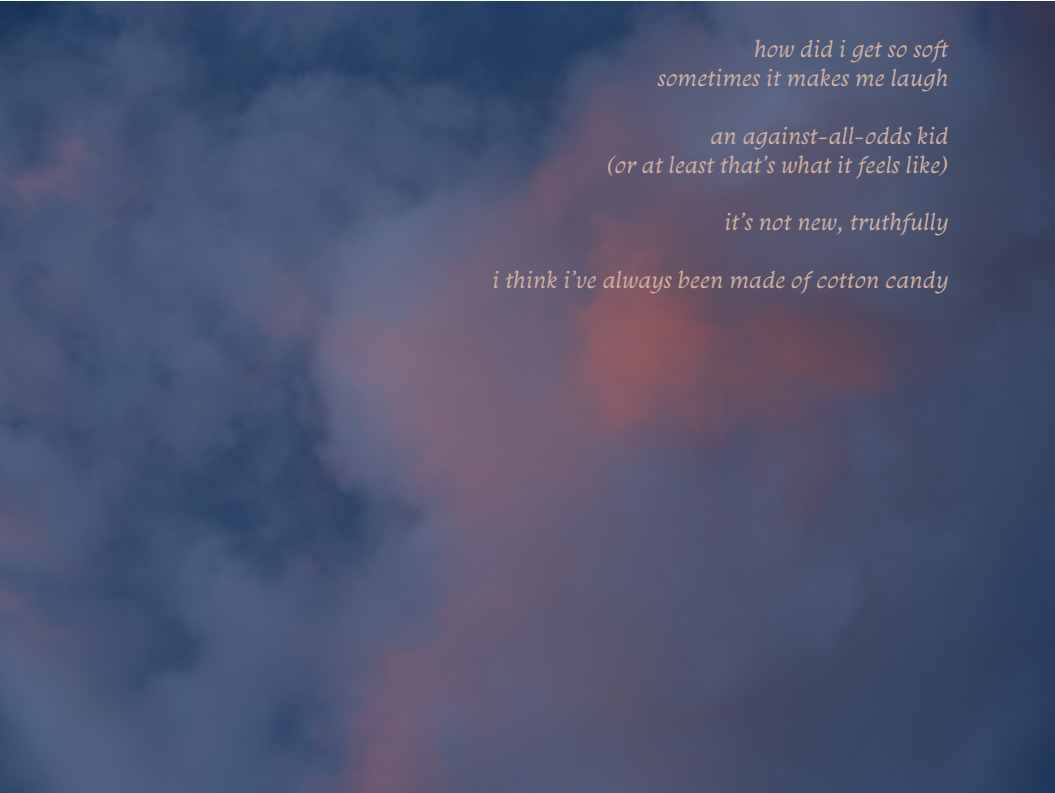
**Every aspect of who i am
Because when i meet you
And i see you
And i trust you
I need to tell you everything
I need to make up for every moment
In this life
We have spent apart**

**When i see you are like me
I want to understand all of you
And for you to understand all of me**



*i've always loved peaches
even before i was born
i knew the taste before i ever saw the world
distilled sunshine before i ever felt its touch on my skin*

*you are peaches to me
(a perfume that makes my pupils dilate)
sun-warm peaches
(so, so soft)
just in reach
(their juice dripping down my chin)*



*how did i get so soft
sometimes it makes me laugh*

*an against-all-odds kid
(or at least that's what it feels like)*


it's not new, truthfully

i think i've always been made of cotton candy



chaos surrounds the world

and the flower grows



you find the people
who protect and see you

and you protect
and see them



we never know what lies on the other side

of consciousness

fear

or suffering

A close-up photograph of a yellow flower spike, likely a species of Aster or similar, against a blurred green background. The flowers are small and numerous, arranged in a dense, elongated cluster. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the petals and the green of the stems.

it's never easy

but it's always worth it



all i know is

you promised
to meet me
in the garden

i'll see you soon

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Daróg is Dirt Goblin Studios' literary and arts magazine.
The magazine is comprised of original artist works
selected and compiled by the editorial board.

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