

Kingdom Reality Wesley Taaffe, Lamar High School

the first thing to catch people's eyes are the sharp swords of eyeliner painted across my face at every sunrise, like a warrior ready to take on thousands of scaly dragons

it imprints fear upon others, *leaving them speechless*

i come across as a queen trampling over everyone in my path, throwing any words of negativity behind my back

however, these are lies printed on sheets of old paper sent out to the people to read while savoring the last bit of their morning coffee

i am none of those things even if some days i wish i was.

i wear eyeliner because it's something i attempted during times of illness to get my mind off the stormy fog that faded out the good in the world

addiction followed and without it, looking into a mirror and seeing



the same person became almost impossible it's now a permanent tattoo that has engulfed my thoughts on my own beauty

i am not a queen, just the daughter of one who fears taking the throne every day, hope suffocates me begging for a catastrophe to forbid

the reality of that chair of power.

yet, guilt lives stomach feasting on every thought that enters my mind while i hold my stomach with stained tears even with no physical pain present.

but it's not painless, my brain attempts to stab at my open wounds and some days it succeeds while others i beat the beast that is my own self.