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A New Shalott

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A New Shalott

By Tori Wright, Class of 2020

Why did I submit this late? A Dean's List student, shameful huh? Because a depression nap got in the way — because I can't stand to think about something which might leave my dearest loved ones dead in a cold storage truck.

It seemed harmless at first — something that happened to others, not us. Then it came closer to home, and we became frightened. Some more than others.

One of my comforts in the “before time” had been comedy news shows; “Last Week Tonight,” “The Daily Show.” Within weeks this guilty pleasure was a source of panic. I feared to step outside and physically forbade my sixty one year old mother from leaving the house to buy groceries. I bought them online with my own money instead.

As a clinical anxiety sufferer, I live in fear constantly — fear of humiliation, of the judgement of others. Now I fear death, my own and that of my family.

We joke about it amongst ourselves, when we're together. Mainly we admonish the stupidity of politicians, or those who insist that others sacrifice themselves for the public comfort. We pretend we can relax. At the back of my mind is the knowledge that I could lose these people, who I love more than my own life, to the selfishness of another person.

I hide in my room. My life is nothing but a cycle of homework and constant sleep. I've become depressed and I know it. All we're doing is waiting.