

GRANT



ABIGAIL

# OF WRITING AND PLACES IN BETWEEN

## Graduate School & Grant's Novels

by Grant

It's October now. Fall is here again, and we're enjoying every day of it with glasses of egg nog and mugs of hot apple cider. Abi and I (Grant) have been busy with a lot of writing projects but have also been busy with life in general. Currently I'm knee deep in a Masters in Secondary Education (teaching high school) at the University of Oregon. At this rate I will finish the degree and be certified to teach by the end of June, 2019. After that, we hope to send Abi to school. To begin with, it might simply be for some continuing education in writing and film classes, but we're hoping eventually for a full four year degree program.

This year's writing has been rough for me because of scheduling. However, I have continued to query last year's fantasy novel, *Queen of Hoarfrost*, in search of an agent and publishing house. In addition to that, I've been working both on the sequel and a brand new novel, both of which should be finished by the end of the year. I haven't been writing as many short stories this season, however, the novels are coming together well and should be ready for beta readers soon.

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**Poetry Selection:**  
**Mason Bees - *Osmia Lignaria***

*First Published by Ink & Voices*

by Abi

The bees were building my home,  
A tiny home  
Beneath the trees on my grandfather's hill.

The bees were dancing in my sleep,  
Just below my eyelids  
And every time I opened my eyes I cried.

The bees were mason bees,  
Tiny workers, soft drones, brawny queens  
A monarchy built out of stone.

The bees would care for my home,  
My heart  
Make me well again and let me sleep.

The bees put on a show,  
Offering spittle and nectar  
Observing my reactions to my now finished home.

The bees are guardians,  
They set up hives in the alcoves  
And here I will live forever - buried on my grandfather's hill.

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## Poetry Publication, Patreon and Noveling (Abi)

by us

I (Abi) have been working on so many projects, sometimes it feels a little overwhelming. In April I got a job in which I transcribed a novel from paper to Google Documents. I had so much fun doing this and will hopefully be doing more of it in the future.

I've also been hard at work with my poetry; just this year I've had eleven poems and three photographs and more published by online literary magazines (links should be posted to our website soon). Most recently I had a flash fiction piece titled "Peanuts" published in *The Blue Pages*. It's encouraging to think of my work being read by thousands of people across the globe.

As for Patreon, my goal for this year is to reach a total of 8 supporters. As of today I'm at five supporters, who give me a total of \$16 a month. Patreon allows me to pay small bills and poetry submission fees, as well as help me to buy equipment for all my projects. I'm currently in need of a new laptop as I fear my old one will die soon. My hope is to be able to afford one by the end of the year.

Patreon is such a great website for creators, and I really love working with it. It allows me to give exclusive content to people who support me, like sneak peaks of writing, detailed posts about my writing process, and often first or free copies of published work.

The other thing I'm currently in the midst of working on is a full length novel. I'm in my third batch of edits and I'm also sending out queries to agents. I've gotten one rejection so far and am waiting to hear back from a second agent. Even just a year ago going through this process would have been nerve-racking for me, but at this point I've queried so many poems and received so many rejections it feels like a normal thing.

All in all my writing has made some significant progress, and I'm pleased with where I am and where I'm going.

## Review: Bill & Tim's Barbeque & Tap House

by us

Continuing in our saga of getting out and adventuring in Eugene, on one of our monthiversaries, Grant and I (Abi) found ourselves walking down Pearl Street in search of food. We knew once we hit 15th street that we'd find a pub serving meat, which was what I -- who was starving -- was desperately craving.

Bill & Tim's Barbeque and Tap House was an interesting place. To begin with, it's a sports bar with a rustic/cowboyish atmosphere, which we didn't realize, otherwise we would have avoided it like the plague. Secondly it was neither a sit down restaurant nor fast food; it felt like they couldn't make up their minds what to do with their place, so they did everything. With not much success. After ordering at the bar, we received our food in less than ten minutes, as if it had simply been sitting in the back waiting to be warmed up and scooped onto a plate.

We both ordered pulled pork sandwiches, which when doused in extra and spicy bbq sauce had enough flavor to cover up the re-warmed texture of the meat. The freshly made coleslaw was probably the best part, not too sweet and still crunchy. However, to our dismay the food did not come with french fries as we had assumed, but instead came with homemade potato chips that probably were edible when first made but were now stale, tasteless, and tried to break our teeth when we bit into them.

I did see an option on the menu for pulled pork tacos, which I now wonder if these would have been better, but sadly I have little interest in going back to Bill & Tim's after having such a mediocre experience the first time. I would not recommend this place to anyone at this time, but I am curious to know if anyone has had a different experience than we did. Perhaps we just went on a bad day?

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