

GRANT



ABIGAIL

OF WRITING AND PLACES IN BETWEEN



Welcome to our 10th Newsletter

by us

Ten Newsletters later, and who new time would fly by so fast since our first release in the fall of 2015. It has been quite the adventure. Thank you to everyone who has shown us support in our endeavors. 2018 was a good writing year all around, even if we did not meet all the goals we had at the start. But when does that ever happen, right? Despite that, we are taking a moment to share a few things we were able to finish in 2018 that we are proud of:

- Abi published: 14 poems, 3 photographs, 2 short stories, 1 poetry collection.
- Abi's books read: 287
- Grant wrote a brand new novel, and drafted sequels to two others.
- Both of us continue to send out queries for previous novels, now tallying over 20 total queries between the two of us.

Poetry Selection:

By Grant

I wrote this poem as part of project for my Graduate Teaching Program. It was meant as a symbol of what I imagine my future classroom to be, so I wrote about how as a teacher, if the only thing I'm able to do for my students is guide them to a place beyond the shallow suffocating mainstream culture, that would be enough.

Once upon a now,
A city stretches across the scene:
The windows are one-way,
And the doors are walls,
But the surface is a snow white sheen

The learners line up
In their seats and along the street
To stare at a screen
Saying one thing,
Over and over again, and on repeat.

This one thing,
Is full of hate and full of fear,
But it's god
In the form of a man,
And the fighting is far over there.

But there are holes in this place --
If the white city is something you can let go --
Inside, it's not simple,
Inside, it's not safe,
But there is this: more colors than shades in a rainbow.

What is a rainbow?
What is light? What is rain? What is me?
What is you?
What is they?
And why did Alice follow that stupid rabbit?

I don't have an answer,
I can't set you free because I'm me,
Not you,
Or you,
But I have to ask you if you can see...

Or hope, perhaps,
To see something better than a pure white city.
So let them learn
So let them fly
They have more potential than this, I guarantee.

What can we do,
Other than point to the holes in this system
And ask
No, beg
The learners to choose their own rhythm.

I'm almost done,
But I should probably mention Dada, tonight,
And elephants,
And maybe John Lennon,
Then I'll wait, because we have far to go before,
well, before 'it's gonna be all right.'

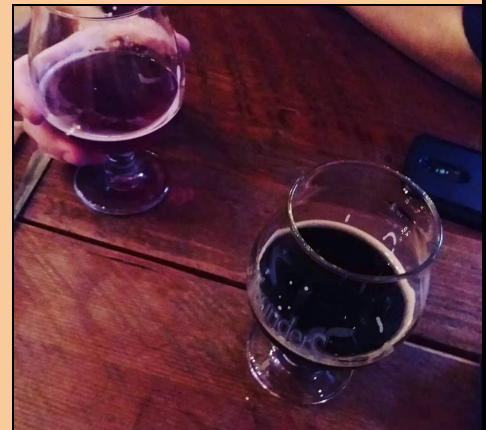
Review: The First National Taphouse

by Abigail

When you go out for a bite to eat or to enjoy a drink, what questions do you consider? What's the atmosphere of a place? Will there be too many people (or too few)? Will it be loud? Are the waiters helpful and engaging? Does the food delight when consumed? Is there a wide selection of beer? Are the cocktails unique?

Rarely do we find a place that answers each of these questions to our satisfaction, but when the stars align and fate smiles upon us, we can find the perfect restaurant.

Thanks to friends, Grant and I have found this place at The First National Taphouse on Broadway in downtown Eugene. The pub has both interior and exterior seating, with a small chalkboard display of the place's special of the day sitting outside. Inside, the rustic wood atmosphere can be either busy or relaxed depending on the time of day. Because we appreciate the quiet more, Grant and I tend to avoid the hours of 7-9ish on most weekdays when the taphouse has events, such as live bands and trivia nights.



With 30-ish rotating selections of ciders, IPAs, sours, meads, and other beers on tap, The First National Taphouse has one of the best selections in town. Try any drink before you buy it or order a whole flight at a reasonable price. Then sit back and order a basket of sweet potato fries or house nachos with pulled pork and jalapenos. The pesto chicken sandwich and other great specials are always excellent meals as well.

All in all we really like this laid back pub, and we hope it becomes one of your favorites too. Cheers!

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