

dignity:

creative expressions from the
inspiration project



about:

The Inspiration Project is a volunteer collaboration between the University of Rochester and CP Rochester, a nonprofit organization that supports individuals with physical and developmental disabilities. During the spring of 2021, students from the University of Rochester met weekly over Zoom with writers from CP Rochester. Through extensive one-on-one conversations, the UR students and CP Rochester adults have produced the creative works assembled here.

acknowledgments:

This project was made possible by the hard work and generous support of many people: The consumers and staff at CP Rochester, especially Tina Bennett and Kristi Powers, the students at the University of Rochester, Joanna Scott (Professor of English, University of Rochester), Kathy Kingsley (Department of English, University of Rochester), Justina McCarty, Erin Francisco (Department of English, University of Rochester), Glenn Cerosaletti (Director, Rochester Center for Community Leadership, University of Rochester), Deborah Rossen-Knill (Director, Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program, University of Rochester), Jeffrey Runner (Dean of the College, University of Rochester), Sarah Mangelsdorf (President of the University of Rochester), Katie Mannheimer (Chair, Department of English, University of Rochester), Gloria Culver (Dean, School of Arts and Sciences).



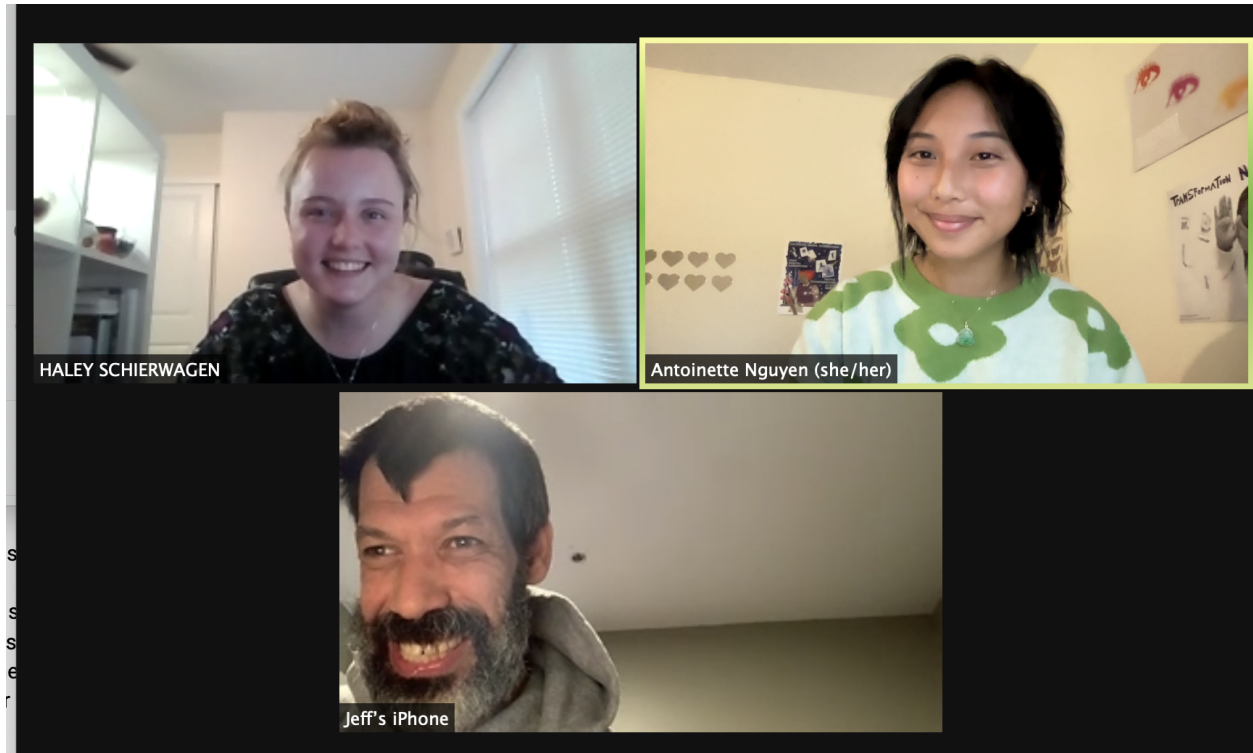
table of contents:

Anna’s New Wheelchair — Jeff Yarmel.....	1
Maria’s Story — Maria Cruz-Dillio.....	4
Milly — Latrice Person	7
The Coronavirus 2021 — Tianna Harvey.....	11
Sam, Lilia, and Stitch’s Big Adventure — Sam Jansen.....	12
Once Upon A Time There Was A Girl Who Loved Everything — Geraldine Copeland.....	16
Chris and Pat on Vacation — Chris Thornton	19
Excerpt from <i>Neo-Wild West</i> — Caleb Dingus.....	22

Anna's New Wheelchair

By Jeff Yarmel

In collaboration with Haley Schierwagen & Antoinette Nguyen



Anna hears footsteps coming down the hall. The door opens. Anna is a little scared. Mike, a robot-human, says: "Hello, are you Anna?" Anna says, "yes", a bit nervously.

Mike says: "I am here to help you make a wheelchair. I am a builder."

Anna cheers: "That is so exciting - I want to help!"

They decide that they should build the wheelchair outside. Mike carries Anna to the garden. They first need to get supplies: wheels and metal. Mike starts building and Anna, who is really good at math, does the calculations to make all the pieces fit. Mike builds in a touchscreen to control the wheelchair and makes

sure the wheelchair can charge overnight like a Tesla.

Anna really likes music, so Mike secretly installs a radio into the wheelchair.

The wheelchair is now done!

Mike carries Anna into the wheelchair so she can take a spin. The radio starts playing when she turns a corner. Her favorite classical music comes on the radio.

Anna says, "Wow!" Anna takes Mike's robot-hand and they start dancing in the street.

Two months later, Anna loves her new wheelchair, but she has a dream of flying through the clouds. One day, Anna and Mike are painting in the garden. Anna tells Mike about

her dream. Mike has an idea. When Anna is napping later that day, Mike plans a surprise.

The next morning the clouds are fluffy and white in the sky. Mike places Anna's wheelchair outside and carries her into it.

FLOOSH! Wings pop out from the sides of the wheelchair and Anna starts to fly.

At first it's close to the ground to be safe. Then, Mike, who can fly, starts to rise up in the air and holds his hand out to a floating Anna. Holding hands, they zoom upward to touch the clouds. The clouds turn into the shape of seats and Mike and Anna float onto them. They bask in the sun until Mike's metal shines and Anna's skin tans.

Two hours later, they fly back home.

They stay at home for the next four days so that Mike can re-charge his battery. While he's charging, he quickly adds rocket boosters to Anna's wheelchair. Then, another adventure begins:

Next stop: the moon!

Anna and Mike fly up to the moon together for a vacation. When they get to the moon, they start to sweat -- it's hot! They jump and hop around because of the low gravity, exploring the new terrain.

Suddenly, Anna spots seven little boys!

Anna asks Mike, "Who are those people?" Mike responds, "I don't know, but they look funny!" Mike and Anna invite them to come back to Earth with them. They stay for one more day to explore the craters on the moon. Mike engineers a contraption to take the little boys back to Earth with them.

Once they return, they celebrate their arrival with a make-your-own-pizza party! Everyone builds their pizza with cheese, mushrooms, pepperoni, and paprika. The little boys eat their pizzas and all of a sudden grow big!

Anna asks them, "How did you grow so big so quick?!" The (now) big boys respond, "We're your family, Mike! We're robots like

you!" Mike asks, "Why are you guys here?" "Just to see you!" Mike's family says.

After 2 days, they all decide to go looking for treasure in the ocean so that they can afford to make more wheelchairs for other people that may need them.

In order to go into the water, Mike and his newfound family upgrade the wheelchair to a glass dome so Anna can breathe and see underwater. Now they have eight robots to build the upgrade in one day! They also have to add an Air tank for oxygen, outlet for charging, and heating.

As they search, they find gold treasure in a cave 3 miles deep in the ocean, except it is being guarded by a giant octopus!

Mike and his family emit a radio frequency that puts the octopus to sleep.

Anna asks, "How do we get this to the surface?" Mike tells Anna to press the giant grey button on her chair. Anna presses the button and a robotic arms springs out of the wheelchair and grabs the treasure.

Together, they all blast to the surface with their new treasure and go to Anna's home.

After this long adventure they need a lot of sleep and after a good night's rest, they start to plan how to use their new treasure.

They decide to start buying parts and party supplies, and find a space to rent.

They are creating a community organization to build free customizable wheelchairs together at this new Wheelchair Party!

It's in 3 days, so they have to hurry to get all the supplies they need!

On the day of the event, 30 neighbors of all ages come to the event. They all team up with a robot and make their own wheelchairs.

Some people want chairs that hover, some want chairs that look like a bicycle, some even want chairs that make cocktails!

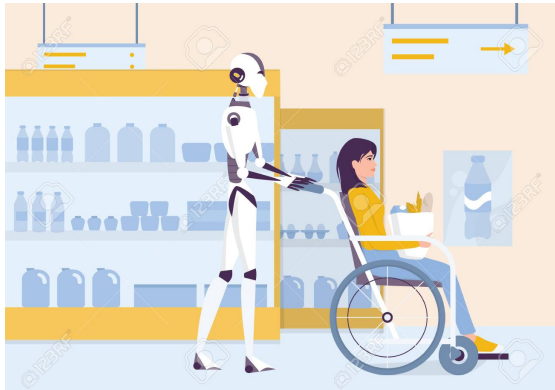
And the robots do it all.

At the end of the day, 30 neighbors and Anna thank the robots, and Anna gives Mike a tight hug.

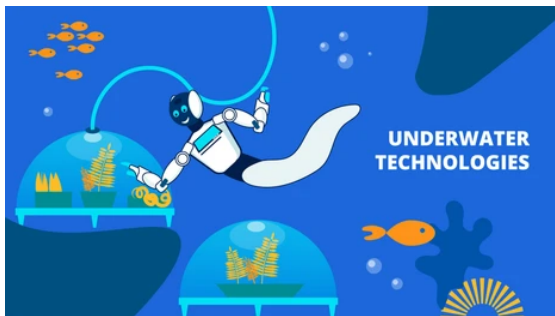
Mike returns the hug and says, “We couldn’t have done this without you. I want you to continue to help with the community organization!”

Anna agrees and they set off to find new communities that need chairs.

The End.



Mike and Anna in the grocery store

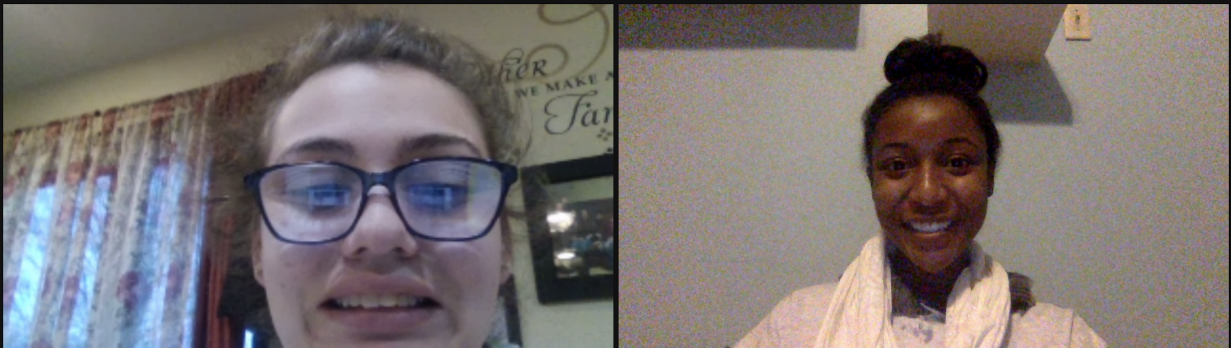


Mike underwater

Maria's Story

By Maria Cruz-Dillio

In collaboration with Mary Halm



It was a dark and stormy night. I was sitting in a tent with Mary, and Bryanna when we heard creepy noises. The noises were coming from different animals on the mountain, and there was thunder and lightning. We decided to open the tent to look outside with a flashlight to see outside, but we didn't see any of the animals we heard. Instead, we saw a big man, and screamed, and quickly went back into the tent. We huddled together in fear, as we watched the man's shadow walk away. We remained huddled together for a while, too afraid to look out to see if the scary man had really gone away. After five more minutes, I went to check outside to see if the scary man had really gone away. I saw that

the man was gone, but decided to play a prank on Mary and Bryanna. So, I made different shadows outside of the tent with a flashlight. Mary and Bryanna were shaking in the tent, as they watched the shadows go by outside the tent. Both girls became very worried about me because they didn't know I was playing a prank and thought something happened to me. It was silent outside the tent, but they could still see shadows. Before Mary and Bryanna could go outside to look for me, I jumped back into the tent and screamed "Gotcha!" Mary and Bryanna screamed in response and I just laughed at them. I did tell them the man was gone after everyone calmed down. We then got dressed for bed, and

bundled up with extra layers, as it was getting colder.

It was so cold that night, we decided to make a fire near camp, on the mountain, with sticks, we gathered earlier in the day, and a lighter that was packed. We talked about our day around the fire to keep warm, and decided to make S'mores. We talked about the day and how much fun we had. It was nice hanging out together while we were hiking. On our hike we saw a deer, beautiful trees, and beautiful birds. We took pictures while on the hike and posted them on our instagrams. It was a great day followed by a scary, but nice evening.

The next day we packed up and went home to see our family. The drive home was an hour long. Mary was driving, I was next to Mary, up front, and Bryanna was in the back seat eating her own snacks. We listened to XXXTENTACION the whole way home to get ready for his concert later that night. After an hour drive back to town, Mary drove me and Bryanna back to our house first to drop us off, and then went home.

When we got home we saw our family waiting for us (our mom, the dogs, and grandma). We told them about our camping trip and how much fun we had. Then we told them we saw a big man and his shadow from our tent. We also told them about the S'mores we made that night, and how good the S'mores were. We told them how we made the S'mores the other night. I told them, "We used a stick first, to stick the marshmallow on and put in the fire. Then we took it out of the fire. Then the Chocolate went on the graham cracker and then the graham cracker was used to pull the marshmallow off the stick to finish the S'more to eat it." After I told my family how the S'mores were made, we all sat around the living room and just talked. The topic of names came up and we talked about our family name. My mom's name is Anastasia, my sister's name is Bryanna and my grandma's name is Mary-Ellis. After talking about names

we started talking about our dream houses and this was mine. I want a big house. Like a rich big house with a fancy pool where you can jump in on the side and it also has a slide, with a hot tub next to the pool. I also want a fancy car, like a corvette. The house would have ten bedrooms, and ten floors, there would be a bedroom per floor. There would be multiple living rooms and kitchens. There would be a basement and in the basement there would be a lot of games, like connect four, a pool table, and a bar area. My basement would also have a big TV to watch movies on when friends are over. Best of all the house would be on the beach in Florida! That's my dream house.

After we finished talking we realized it was time to get ready for the concert. Mary came back over to get ready for the concert with me and Bryanna. We all did our hair and makeup and put on cute clothes. I wore shorts, a half tank top, my sandals and my sweatshirt. I straightened my hair and wore it down. When we were all done getting ready Mary drove us to the concert, we were so excited to see him in concert. Our seats for the concert were right in front. The whole experience was perfect, because I saw him and he gave me a big smile from the stage. He sang a song for me, it was my birthday and he sang Happy Birthday to me, and called my name. After the concert we went to go meet XXXTENTACION with our back stage passes. I was so happy to meet him. I told him how kind I thought he was and he gave me a shirt, one of his merchandise shirts that was signed by him. Before we left he gave all of us tickets to his next concert. After we left we were all hungry. Mary and I wanted Applebees, but Bryanna wanted McDonalds, so we went to both. First to McDonalds to get Bryanna's food, Bryanna got a cheeseburger and fries, and then to Applebees to get Maria and Mary's food. I got Shrimp in a basket with french fries and Ranch. Mary got Mozzarella sticks. After we got our

food we all went back to my house and had a sleepover.

At the sleepover we had snacks, like candy, candy, candy, candy, chips, chips, drinks and more candy, we love candy. Then we watched a little movie, a scary SCARY movie. We turned the light off during the movie, but we had a flashlight beside us, in case anyone came to scare us, or jump at us. If the scary man we saw at the mountain came back we would run away, and scream like “AHHHH!” Thankfully, that didn’t happen and we were safe during the movie. After the movie we went to relax and fall asleep. In the morning we had breakfast and watched tv shows and talked about how we had a fun night. At breakfast we planned out our day. We let our dogs out and played with the dogs, Lexie and Capone. Lexie and Capone were playing together, in the yard. They were playing with their toys too. But then we started to play with just Lexies and pet her. Capone was barking at us because Capone was jealous that we pet Lexie and not him. When we pet Lexie, Capone barks and barks because he is jealous of Lexie, it’s so funny.

Later that day we were watching youtube and dancing in the living room where we keep Bj, our Parrot. BJ was talking while we were dancing. My Grandma was in the living room with us, vacuuming, so we turned up the music to hear it over the vacuum. We were listening to Close Friends by Little Baby. When we were done dancing we asked Anastasia if we could go to SkyZone. She said yes and took us to the trampoline park. When we got there we signed in, and they gave us wristbands and our socks so we could jump. While we were jumping we saw cute boys, they came up to us and asked us our names. I told them, “my name is Maria, and this is Mary and Bryanna”, but then I said “GOODBYE, and have a nice day”, because we are jumping, we don’t want you guys near us, we are having a girls day. Then we jumped and jumped and jumped and Anastasia

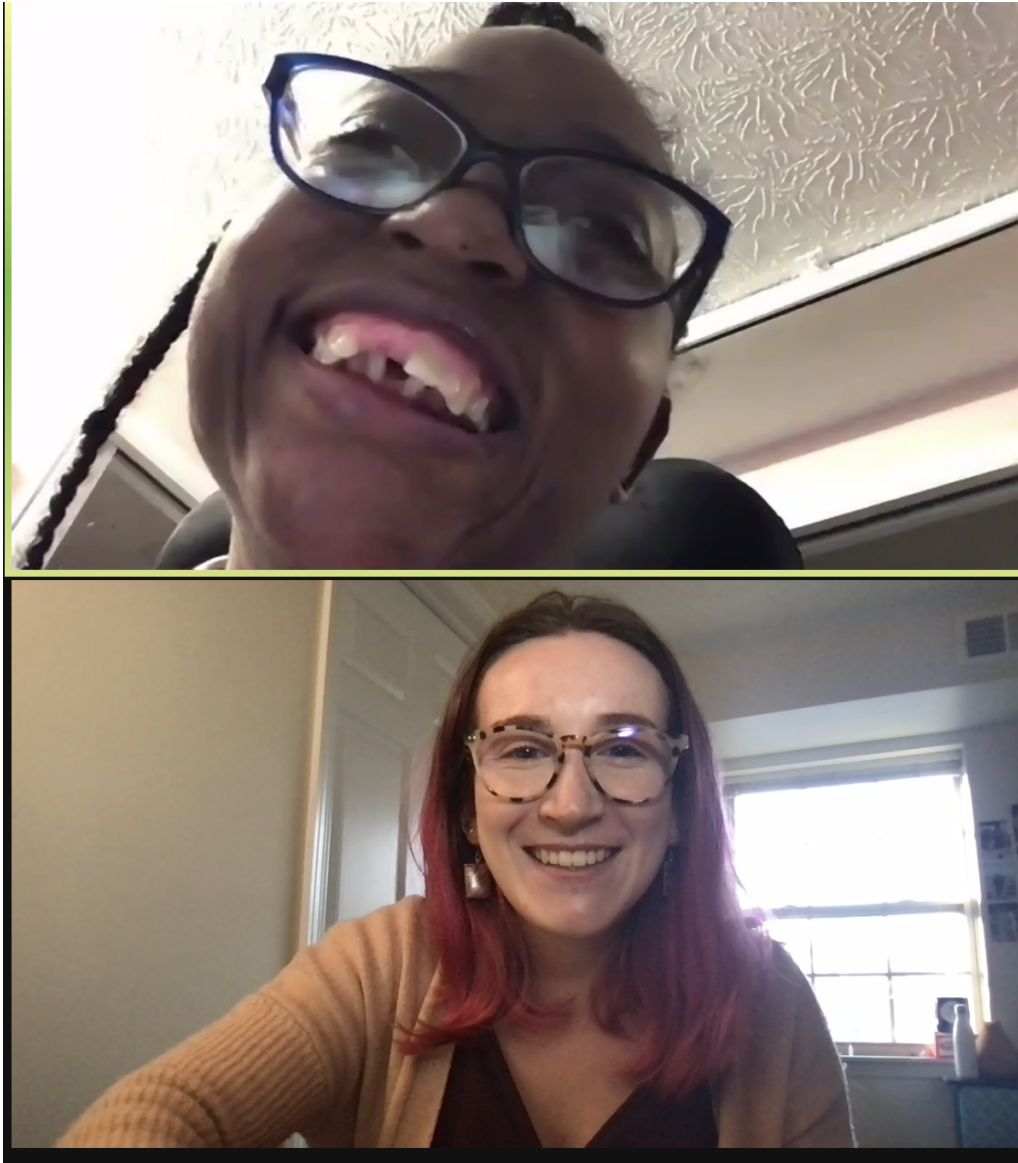
said time to go and we went to TacoBell and we had Tacos there. I had Taco salad. After that we went to the gas station because Anastasia's car was getting low. We got gas and then went home and ate our food and then we watched a funny video about people who jump off their house and into the pool! We spent the rest of the day dancing around.

The next day we had school. To get to school we take the bus, it is nice because my friends and I all take the bus together. When we get to school I go to see my boyfriend in the hallway and we talk before we have to go to the classroom for homeroom. Second period I have english, third period I have math, fourth period is social studies and then lunch. After lunch we either have study hall or gym, depending on the day. After gym or study hall I have reading, then after Reading I have Earth Science and after that it is time to go home, THANK GOODNESS! I take the bus to get home as well. My friends and I can’t sit next to each other on the bus, but we are still able to talk until we reach our bus stops. When I get home I sit down and watch tv. I also enjoy hanging out with my family and friends until 8:00, which is when I go to bed.

Milly

By Latrice Person

In collaboration with Morgan Farrow



This story is about Milly. Milly is kind of like me. Her favorite color is red and yellow and she's got a yellow wheelchair so it's kind of based on me. She likes cars and teddy bears and scary movies a little bit but not all the time. She

likes math too. She likes to imagine things. She has the biggest imagination. She has trouble walking but she walks with a walker at her school. She is like twenty-two years old and she lives on her own in a supportive apartment. She

can do stuff by herself without her parents. She is independent. Her physical therapist gave her a little walker that she can use at her house so she can do more things. She is very smart. She likes to read books and do math.

Her favorite cousin Carlos gives her a new chair. He tells her a secret about it--it has magical powers. It can float on water and do lots of other things. She can press a button and make it fly in the air. She doesn't know how she does it but it flies in the air. She was like "what the heck! I'm in the air. Wow this is so cool" and she learned it could skateboard too and do tricks and go on ramps and stuff. It can go for a wheelie and go off the bumps and it flies in the air and then it comes down. As soon as she learns about her chair, she takes out her phone and calls her friend Sarah.

Milly talks to her best friend whose name is Sarah and they telepathically communicate. Sarah knows what Milly is thinking before she even says it. It's a whole world that they share together in their heads. They can work together very well and use their powers together. If a cup is about to spill, they'll both know to use their powers and save it from falling. They always know what the other is thinking without even having to say it.

They're kind of like sisters but they're friends. They grew up together in the same school. Sarah likes princess worlds with puppies and candy and dragons. She likes pink stuff and sparkly stuff and teddy bears. Sarah can help Milly portal to places. Sarah doesn't like skateboarding like Milly does, but she likes to do gymnastics and to swim. She really likes the pink sparkly leotards. Sarah and Milly went to boarding school together. It was a special school that would help kids like them to learn because they needed help learning. They went to the special school called The Ladybug School of Learning that helped them do everything. They would walk and learn to swim and they had a special program called the Pluto School of

Learning where they worked with students who helped them use their powers to write stories. They really liked the school.

They help people around their town. The town was quiet. It was a quiet cottage kind of town where everyone would help each other. People would stare at them sometimes but they would turn the other way and feel okay about it. They wouldn't be mean to anybody, they would just try to help and be nice. It was called Daisy Town. Sarah and Milly sometimes help the school to raise money. And they work at a nursing home. And they help them in the schools with the kids. After they were finished with boarding school, they would go back and help the other kids as they learn. They tutor and help with activities. They had trouble when they were there. Sarah knows sign language so she would help the kids who needed it. They would also help the teachers work with the kids. She also has a therapy dog who flies with her and to help her fight off the evil purple aliens.

One day, Sarah goes to the school to help out like always. Milly calls Sarah because they usually see each other after Sarah is done at the school. On this day, Milly can't get in contact with Sarah. She begins to worry. She knows that something must be wrong. That's when Milly sees the fog for the first time. Milly drives to Sarah's house in her lavender colored jeep and sees this pink and purple stuff in the sky. The sun is supposed to be yellow but the whole sky looks different. She knows something is wrong.

Milly's truck starts acting up and the sky turns purple and the fog gets worse. She can't see at all. There are dark purple clouds and acid comes down. Then the bubble people start coming out. Milly realizes that something is really wrong. The bubble people look like marshmallow people and they are coming down from the purple foggy sky. The bubble people have lazer guns and are shooting at Milly and

her friends. It's very peculiar. Milly and her posse drive in a van that can fly.

To stay safe, Milly and her friends have to wear these purple suits so the protectors aren't getting sick. The purple suits keep them safe from the fog and acid. The weird part about this is that it makes people silly first. They just laugh and laugh. But then they start coughing and the silliness turns into sickness. And everyone gets really sick.

Milly finds a special doctor to help the world get better. But she's gotta travel to Mercury to find the doctor. She and her posse travel in a van that flies. On Milly's way they get stuck in this quicksand. It's red and hard to move through. It brings them up into the sky which is purple and light pink. They find an orange rope outside the van and they climb out of the sticky sand. Then they use their powers to fly to the castle where the doctor is. They go past fish and sharks and crabs and lobsters and dolphins. Once they get to Mercury it's very hot. So they've got to take off their boots. They wear these hot light sunglasses to protect their eyes. They have to put on a lime green suit that is breathable.

When they find the doctor, they explain to her that the town is going through this turmoil and need her help. The doctor said she has heard of this fog sickness and she makes this green potion and goes with them on a quest back to the town. They assemble a whole team of doctors and scientists to help with the silly people. They send them to a hospital in the town which is called the Strawberry Hospital. Once the people are there, they can get comfortable and get better.

Meanwhile, back in the town the trusty team is trying to blast the fog away. But it just keeps coming. They use a water gun that shoots out green and purple liquid to fight the fog and the acid. People in the street are getting silly from the fog and so they have to go to the hospital too.

The sickness prevents the people from seeing. They start acting like little kids. They start acting really goofy and confused. And then they faint. At the Strawberry Hospital, the doctors don't really know how to treat anything yet. But they keep doing tests and they come up with an icy potion like a magical kool aid for the patients to drink. This makes them feel better and soon enough they'll be back to normal.

Milly and Sarah are trying to help as many people as they can. They are trying to help talk to the doctors and learn stuff about the sickness. They want to help and write stories about what's happening. They tell news reporters about the disaster. They go to the hospital and check on people. They do some of the helping work at the hospital as they visit the patients. They are going through nursing school and training. They talk with the Martian parents and help babysit while the parents are out fighting or sick. They also help the Martian kids learn throughout the disaster. They help fight the fog monster in the community of Daisy Town.

Milly and Sarah also help out with the junior superhero school. They used to go there so they know how to help with simple things like math and important techniques for fighting villains.

After all of the fighting is over, Milly and her team get awards for all of the fighting they've done against the fog. They also get awards for their community service. There's a whole ceremony for them. It's a big techno party for all the bubble people. And it's held outside in the woods one night. They come together and have a big big party with green slime ice cream and purple cake. It's like a bonfire. And they have fireworks and listen to their techno music. There were lowlights and it was like a rave for bubble people. The bubble people's ship came down. It had lights and was like a beautiful party. All the school people come together to celebrate. They had a good day and the world got back together at the end. It was an awesome

party and everybody clapped at the award ceremony. The President of the Pluto School of Learning, Professor Sunshine, made a speech about how all the peace fighters fought for the bubble land because she was so good at speeches. Some of the peace fighters that were in chairs (who also had different abilities) spoke at the ceremony, too. People thought that they can't really do things but they showed that they can fight to make a difference for themselves and other bubble people.

The Coronavirus 2021

By Tianna Harvey

In collaboration with Olivia Alger



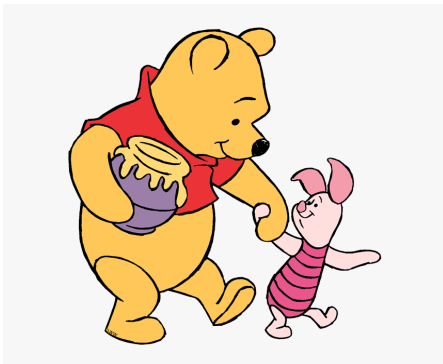
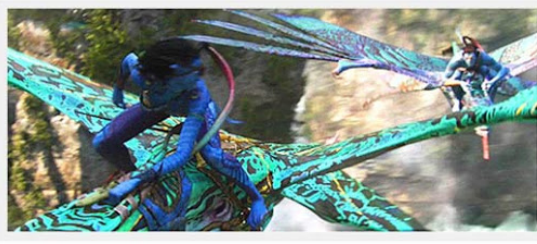
It has been one year since the pandemic started. During this pandemic, a lot of people around the world are struggling to survive. In the past, people have been able to go to nursing homes to visit their loved ones who need their support, but they can't anymore. In order to go to any events or travel, you need to get two shots of the vaccine. After travelers are vaccinated, they do not have to wear masks when they go on the plane. I miss going to amusement parks. Sea Breeze is my favorite one. I live right next to Sea Breeze. I like the Time Machine ride. Me and my friend go on the Time Machine. I really like the Jack Rabbit. I go on it 100 times. And it's 100 years old. It goes slow up the hill and then it goes down, and there are lots of stomach butterflies when you go down. Sea Breeze is

also opening up. The YMCA is also opening. As you can see, the governor has lifted the coronavirus curfew of 11pm. Me and my friend are going to try to see the movie "Tom and Jerry" in the theater in a couple months after bowling. The movie theaters are opening on May 7th and May 14th. Funny enough, we saw a mouse under the kitchen sink. I don't have a choice where I go shopping. I go to Walmart. But if I did, I'd pick Victoria's Secret. I get claustrophobic under three masks.

Sam, Lilia, and Stitch's Big Adventure

By Sam Jansen

In collaboration with Lilia Frank & Ritu Peddinti



Me and Lilia were on a boat, like one of the Disney Ferry Boats. The boat is red, white,

and yellow, like Mickey Mouse, and it says *Disney* on it. It was cloudy, then sunny, and then

the sun went away and the clouds came out. Then there was the storm; the thunder and the rain. We were scared. We couldn't see and we crashed into a rock. Our boat was sinking and we couldn't get to the land.

Then we saw another boat coming towards us. There was a girl driving the boat, and she had something that looked like a blue dog next to her. "Get on the boat!" she said. We got onto the boat. "I'm Lilo, and this is Stitch," the girl said. Looking at Stitch made us nervous. He was a weird-looking dog. He had six legs and antennae. Then we realized he wasn't a dog; he was Stitch. The Stitch from the Disney movie. And the girl was Lilo from the movie. I was excited. "It's you!" I said.

"Yeah," said Lilo, "It's us."

"Thank you for saving us!" I said.

"You're welcome!" Lilo said. Stitch smiled at us. Lilo drove the boat to land. "Welcome to Stitchland," she said.

We went to Lilo's house. The house was there on the beach. We all talked and we got to know each other. Lilo said we could stay with them until we could make another boat and go home.

The next day, it was sunny out and we went hula dancing with Lilo and Stitch. We met their other friends, Mertle, Elena, Teresa, and Yuki. Mertle had curly red hair and glasses. Elena had blond pigtails and a pink shirt. Teresa had dark, wavy hair and a purple shirt. Yuki had straight dark hair and a green shirt. They were nice. Mertle was kind of bossy but we had a good time. But on the way back, Lilo saw a Lost Pet poster on a palm tree and got scared. "What is it?" I asked. Stitch growled at the poster.

"It's the evil hamster, Dr. Hamsterviel!" Lilo said.

"Somebody thought he was a lost pet, I guess," I said.

"And the tall guy Dr. Gantu is probably with him, too," Lilia said.

"We know he has Stitch's friends," Lilo said. "We need to rescue them or he'll make them big evil monsters that take over the world."

"We'll help you!" I said. We were so excited. We were going to help our heroes!

We went back to Lilo and Stitch's house. There was a note. It said:

YOU'LL NEVER FIND ME.

It was signed with a tiny paw print. That's how we knew it was him. It was really serious. Stitch screamed and got out the record player. Then he got upset and he broke it, he stepped on it; he liked breaking things. Then, to calm down, he got out his baby duck book. He liked his baby duck book.

Suddenly, something fell from the chimney. It was Winnie the Pooh. His stomach growled. "I'm hungry," he said. "I was looking for my honey." Then Piglet landed, thud, next to him.

"Are you okay?" Lilo asked.

"Yeah, we're okay," Pooh said.

"Dr. Hamsterviel took Stitch's friends," Lilia said. "Will you help us look for them?"

"Of course we will help you out," they said.

We huddled and tried to figure out what to do next.

"I have an idea!" I said. "We can use Lilo and Stitch's boat to see if Stitch's friends are at Disney!"

We all thought that was a great idea. We all got on the boat. It was still sunny out, and there was no sign of the cyclone we had been in the other day.

Just as we were getting to Disney's shore, we saw one of the big blue Avatar birds in the sky. Then we heard a shooting noise and the bird and the Avatar riding it came crashing into the water.

"Oh no! Let's go save them!" Piglet yelled.

We helped both of them climb on board. The rider had a Disney T-Shirt and Donald duck ears. We asked if she was okay.

"Yes, I'm okay!" She said, "I'm Doodle. I think it was Gantu that shot me. He is still working with Dr. Hamsterviel. We have to stop him!"

"Yes! Do you want to help us stop him? And also Dr. Hamsterviel? He has our friends," Lilo said.

"Yes, I will help with your friends and get Dr. Hamsterviel!"

When we all got to Disney, we started looking for clues and Stitch's friends right away. The sun was even brighter and it was really warm. We saw the Tower of Terror, a scary hotel, and decided to stop there so we could make a game plan. We stopped under it and I asked about who wanted to go to the top. "I can't climb," Lilia said. Pooh, Piglet and Lilo also didn't want to go up. "We can just watch," Lilo said. So Stitch and Doodle decided to climb up the wall.

Piglet, Lilia, Lilo, and Sam watched carefully, but Pooh wanted honey. "I'm going to the Winnie the Pooh ride," he said. "I think there's honey there." Piglet decided to go with him because he's his best friend. On the way there, Piglet heard something and got scared so he decided to go back. But Pooh was hungry, so he kept going towards the ride. Suddenly we saw a red smoke in the sky. Pooh saw more of it as he got closer to the Winnie the Pooh ride. He decided to go see where it was coming from. When he got inside the ride, he decided to wait to look further until the whole group got there. But then he thought, "Well, it wouldn't hurt to go in really quick to get some honey."

To see if he could get a view of the honey, Pooh decided to get on the ride. On the ride he saw statue toys of Winnie the Pooh and his friends, and he noticed that the Pooh statue was holding a little pot and he saw that it had

honey. When the ride ended, he saw that the pot had some honey in it. There was more smoke around him now, and it was coming from the ride. When he reached for the honey and began to eat, his hands became sticky! All of a sudden, Pooh was stuck in the ride. The staff tried to get him out, but then they gave up and decided to just let him stay on while other people got on and off the ride.

When Lilia looked over to where Pooh and Piglet had gone, she saw the red smoke.

"Doodle! Stitch! Come down quick!" she yelled. "I don't know if they can hear us," I said.

Meanwhile, Piglet was lost. He was all by himself. He looked back to where he had left Pooh and all of a sudden saw him stuck in the ride! He had come to try to find the others, but now he had to rescue his friend. He went up to Pooh's car on the ride to get him unstuck. He pulled and pulled and pulled but Pooh would not budge. Finally, Piglet realized he could push his feet on the ride and pull on Pooh at the same time, and Pooh finally got out!

Meanwhile, back at the Tower of Terror, Doodle and Stitch didn't find any clues, so they came back down to me and Lilia. "We smelled the smoke," said the pair. All four of them then began their journey down to the ride to check it out.

Right as they arrived, they saw Piglet pulling Pooh free from the ride! All six of them together now decided to look at one more place for another clue. They decided to check the Harry Potter Castle and began walking there.

Everyone started looking around the castle to see if they could find the last clue. "Do you smell that smell?" Lilia asked. "Yes," everyone said together. It smelled like cotton candy. There was no need to say it out loud. We all knew. *Dr. Hamsterviel*. We went into the castle, walking quietly and carefully. There was nothing interesting on the first floor and we didn't see anyone, so we started to creep up the stairs. The hamster smell kept getting stronger

the higher we got so we kept going. At the top of the stairs, there was a room with a lot of cages...with Stitch's friends inside them!

Stitch, Pooh, and Piglet stayed behind to rescue Stitch's friends while the others went up the stairs to Dr. Hamsterviel.

"Oh, you found me, you found me," said Dr. Hamsterviel, in a deep, threatening voice, his red eyes glowing. "Well, watch out, you might get trapped!"

"I don't think so," I said. "You might get trapped first."

Doodle sneakily went to get the knot on top of the cage dangling from the ceiling and

untied it so that it fell on top of Dr. Hamsterviel - he was trapped! Without anyone else knowing, Stitch had come to the castle before the rest of them to set up the trap. Dr. Hamsterviel was sent to jail and then back to his home. Everything was back to normal. Me, Lilia, Doodle, Pooh, Piglet, Lilo, Stitch, and all of Stitch's friends had a giant party at the Disney Castle. They danced all night! After the party, we all said goodbye because we didn't know when we would see each other again. Then we went to our own homes through a portal in the water.

The End.

Once Upon a Time There Was a Girl Who Loved Everything

By Geraldine Copeland

In collaboration with Jenny Buckley



Creative Writing

Creative Writing is my favorite place to be. I love it and all our people at U of R make me happy! I just love meeting the new people

and everyone is wonderful there. I can't wait for the anniversary dinner, I'm looking forward to it and I'm just so happy!

I am so happy to be in Creative Writing again because it makes me smile! Joanna

inspired me to get into creative writing, and she is a wonderful instructor. I like everyone, I care for everyone there. I like how we have it every year; it will be my favorite thing to come back to because I love the teachers, I love the volunteers, I love everyone! I have memories of meeting new people and being next to a person that was new to me that became a friend, and so on and so on. I feel so good working in Creative Writing and I have just one feeling - I love it! I've been there quite a long time, this is our 11th year and I'm so happy and proud about the anniversary. I love writing and I want everyone to have a great time.

I'm thrilled to be back this year; I'm having such a wonderful time with it. I wouldn't go anywhere else because it's so nice sharing all of our stories. I love creating here, it makes me so happy and proud! I love having this computer so I can still do Creative Writing during the virus. But ya know what I heard from Joanne? That next year everyone will be together again! That makes me so happy. I would love to meet all the volunteers in person.

I just want to hug the whole world because I am so happy and I love Creative Writing!

Community Art Connections

I just love being at CAC! CAC is wonderful for me because we're doing different things there. I have so many sticker books, and I love doing coloring there too. We're gonna make our prize boxes with our prizes from the games in it. We're doing all kinds of projects every day; I've done weaving with red, white, and blue, we make our beads, and today I made a pillow. Mustard yellow, to match my room.

Sometimes we play lots of games there, too. We play bingo or music bingo, we do aerobics there, we do all kinds of things. We played a game once, rollin' a dice and acting out farm animals. Ya know some of the animals that

they have on there say "hop like a horse". A horse does not hop - I know that! A lion does not run. A cat runs. Other animals on there are "eat like a snake". Who can do that? A snake does not eat hay. A snake eats grass. I'm scared of snakes. I don't wanna come across a snake.

I'm happy at CAC and I love the projects we're doin'.

Spring Has Sprung!

Spring has sprung! It's time for winter to go away! It's time for the snow to go to Alaska! Snow go away, we don't want you no more!

Spring has sprung and the flowers are blooming. We want Spring and seeing the flowers and the birds! And no more snow, please send it away! I do not like snow; snow is ice and then you can fall 'cause that's what I did when I was in the Special Olympics. I was cross country skiing with somebody else and we fell 'cause no one knew there was ice and we got first place. I do not like ice or snow. Snow is pretty for Christmas but then it can go away. Let the flowers bloom, let the sunshine come out and stay out! Let the time stay, don't keep on changing it. I wish they would keep it at the right time, don't keep on changing it like daylight savings time. 'Cause hey, people aren't gonna wanna get up if you keep on doing that.

I just love seeing the grass and not the snow. I like the grass, I'm glad the snow melted. I like seeing the birds and the robins and the blue jays and the deer! I like the deer. I think bluejays are my favorite, ya know why? My mom found one in the street, someone knocked it out of its nest and my mom took it to a vet and we took care of it 'til its wing got better so it could fly. I like robins too, and I love seeing butterflies but most of all my favorite thing is cats. I like kitty cats. My aunt had six of 'em, my Aunt Sue, in Denver, Colorado. Too many. I like all kinds of pets.

I love being outside 'cause the grass is starting to come up and the flowers are blooming. I like seeing them start to bloom and grow. Sunflowers are my favorite 'cause they're yellow. I want a telescope for my birthday so I can see the planets and the stars, too. I like the trees, I like seeing animals and flowers and I'm so happy, I'm feelin' super splendid. I'm feelin' grand.

Baking

We made pizza for dinner tonight, on bagels. I had a vegetarian one. The bagels were sooo good! Mine had mushrooms on it, and cheese, lots of cheese. I just loved it!

Every day I have water, and I'm getting tired of drinking water every day. But after we drink all of our water they give us iced tea.

I wanna bake quiche! I love baking. Ya know what I don't want to use? The Splenda sugar. Last time I had the Splenda sugar it made my stomach hurt, and it didn't taste like regular sugar. It's for diabetic people, and I like regular sugar. I make all kinds of quiche. Regular quiche, too, with cheese in it and nothing else.

Chicago

I'm going to a wedding - Kyle and Maya are getting married and Maya is gonna be my niece-in-law!

We're gonna buy things in Chicago, but not a mug 'cause it may break on the plane. I'm just so happy about going! We're gonna go to the zoo in Chicago, I can't wait! I wonder if they'll have different animals than we do in Seneca. And our hotel, it's got two queen sized beds in it. I'm gonna order in at the hotel, I'm ordering take out. I would rather order in from the restaurant, but ya know what? I'm afraid to go down to the restaurant with this virus. Ya know what we're doing down there? Going to the rehearsal dinner. My Uncle Charlie, my Aunt Donna, my mother, my father, my sister, my sister's kids (but they're grown up now) - Corey and Clay, but Kyle's the one that's getting married. I'm feeling' very good! I know I'm gonna have a good time in Chicago!

Chris and Pat on Vacation

By Chris Thornton

In collaboration with Ada Wofford



This is a story about if my friend Pat and I took a trip to Hawaii. Pat is my housemate and we've known each other a long time. I want to go on a trip to Hawaii with Pat because neither

of us have ever been there before. We'd take a three-day trip, and this is what we would do.

First, we have to pack. The things we want to bring are: Snacks, drinks, DVDs

(including *Golden Girls*, *Rain Man*, *Home Alone*, and *Big Mama's House*), pajamas, clothes, sunblock, a pillow (because I prefer my own pillow, not the hotel's), a radio, and a flashlight for shadow puppets. After packing we'd have to sleep early to be ready for our trip.

In the morning, my sisters will drive us to the airport. We will board the plane, and I will take the window seat because I like to see the clouds. The trip is going to take about ten hours, so we will need to keep busy. We will take a nap to avoid jetlag and afterwards, Pat and I will listen to my radio and have some coffee.

Once in Hawaii, we will get a cab and go to the hotel. First, we will unpack our luggage and then hit the hot tub. After that, we will go swimming in the pool. Then we will go out to dinner at a buffet. The buffet will have mac & cheese, pizza, pasta, Sloppy Joes, chicken, and ice cream. After dinner it's time to go back to our hotel room, watch TV, and go to sleep. The next day will be our first full day in Hawaii and there's lots we'd like to do and see.

We wake up early and it's time to get breakfast at the buffet. The buffet has waffles, toast, hash browns, French toast, eggs, bacon and coffee. After breakfast we go to the beach to swim in the ocean and take a walk along the shore.

Then we go horseback riding. We have both been horseback riding once before. The first time I rode a horse, I fell off. But this would not happen again because we go to a farm with instructors to help us ride. After horseback riding, it's time for a quick lunch at Applebees. We will have cheeseburgers, French fries, and sodas.

After lunch, Pat and I have sailboat lessons. We've never been sailing before and really want to try it. We want to do some fishing as well. Pat and I have both gone fishing before and really like it. I once caught ten fish at camp!

During our sailing lessons, we get invited to attend a Lū'au. A Lū'au is a traditional

Hawaiian party. There is food, music, and dancing. Pat and I are curious to try some new foods like Kālua pua'a, which is a Hawaiian roast pig and Haupia, a coconut-milk based dessert, which I would like to try because I like coconut.



(Haupia)

After the Lū'au it's time to go back to the hotel, where we will watch *Golden Girls* and make shadow puppets before going to sleep.

When we wake up, it's already our last day in Hawaii. We get ready and get breakfast like usual. Pat and I are excited to get the chance to learn how to surf. We find some instructors and hit the waves. Pat and I both choose green surfboards because green is our favorite color.

After that, we go on a hike to see the nature of Hawaii. Pat really likes hiking. We go hiking at Pu'u Loa, which is a volcanic sight with ancient rock carvings called petroglyphs. I saw them online and they look really cool, so it's

great to get to see them up close. Then it's time for lunch at the buffet.



(The Pu'u Loa petroglyphs)

Pat and I really want to try scuba diving or snorkeling in the ocean. Neither of us have ever been scuba diving or snorkeling before, but it looks fun. Since there's time, we go see a tropical garden before having dinner at the Cheesecake Factory. To top off the night, we go on a scenic train ride on the Lahaina Sugar Cane

Train in Maui. I looked it up before our trip and I like that it's an old-fashioned train and I like the colors.



(Lahaina Sugar Cane Train)

Then it's time to go back to the hotel room and pack for the trip home the next morning. We watch *Home Alone* and go to sleep.

It's a great trip and Pat and I have lots of fun. When we get home, we show all the photos we took to our friends and family. We hope to go back again someday.

Excerpt from *Neo-Wild West*

By Caleb Dingus

In collaboration with Steven Crowell



Introduction

It's the year 2036, and the United States of America has yet to be tamed. New states and territories have created many gangs and groups,

and the FBI is doing anything they can to put an end to these renegade hooligans. One of these groups the FBI is going after is the Black Panther Renegades. They live a nomadic

lifestyle, and they help people of color: Hispanics, Native Americans, Blacks, Asians.

The gang has three leaders: Willie, Benjamin, and Majied. And one of the other members is Kenny; his ethnicity is Latino. The camp cook for the gang is a man named Gordy who served in the Second Civil War. The gang has camp maids who help maintain the camps they set up. The camp maids include Latoya, who is Black, Rachel and Camryn are Caucasian also, Marisa and Madeline who are mulatto. The men of the gang include Jed Eason whose ethnicity is African American. He is also the father of Ben and Olive. He has a wife, Rachel, the mother of his two kids, also one of the camp maids who later becomes his spouse. Willie Jr. is the son of Willie Sr. He is biracial. The Curry brothers Saul and Brian are two new gang members. Saul is from Ethiopia, and Brian is Scottish- American; even though they aren't blood related, they consider each other brothers because they grew up on the streets of Baltimore. Kamryn whose ethnic heritage is mulatto with half Cherokee in her is an expert hunter/tracker. She joined the gang at age 27. She lived a rough life. Her mom who was Native American was killed by a rogue soldier who held her captive in her own home. In return, her dad killed the rogue soldier in the most brutal way. Kamryn witnessed the event unfold; that changed her life and made her hate her father for causing her trauma, and she ran away from home at age 16 because she was scared of what her father would do. That and because her dad had become more and more dangerous by the minute because of the alcohol and drugs he was consuming and the untreated paranoid schizophrenia/ PTSD. Another member of the gang, Reverend Brandon Brown is an Italian-American pastor who joined the group. He is dealing with his own issues such as alcoholism and addiction to cough syrup; he often says the prayers that give hope to the group. Shane Wilson, another member, who is

Welsh-American joined the gang after a bar fight with the Miller Gang. He was protecting a man who would later turn out to be Majied. Shane often joins when the group has a score. Another gang member, the women in charge of the camp maids, aka the camp honey badger, is a former university dean and feminist named Juanita whose ethnicity is African American. Another member of the gang is Kai who has mixed-race heritage, has traveled the entire hippie trail of Asia, and is skillful in survival skills. He is described as the hippie-stoner of the group who is half Israeli, half caucasian. Claudia is Jewish-Caucasian. She was saved by the gang when her husband was killed by the Kamchatka Boys that took over her compound. Last but not least, Willie Sr's, Benjamin's, and Majied's most trusted member and lead enforcer, Huey Fernando Black, he is an Afro-Cuban man who lived on the fringes of society his entire life. Skilled in street fighting and boxing and once killed the two cops who killed his mom and two out of the three kids who were bullying him because he was poor. He is willing to choose a righteous path or a path of mayhem and violence.

One of the gang's primary modes of transportation is a covered wagon pulled by bison. Also, since this is a Neo-Western, each character has a mount. Huey's Mount is a prehistoric Bear-Dog named Maggie. Majied's Mount is a T. Rex named The Emperor. Jed Eason's Mount is an Allosaurus named Old Iron Eyes. Willie Jr's Mount is a Baryonyx named Swamp Dragon. Willie Sr's Mount is a Terror Bird named Big Bird. Kai's Mount is a Woolly Rhino named Shaggy. Shane's Mount is a Woolly Mammoth named Ellie. Kamryn's Mount is a Velociraptor named Dog Fight. Saul's and Brian's Mount are Teratorn birds named Mad Bird and Tree Bird. Claudia's Mount is a Mega Raptor named Uriah. Benjamin's Mount is an Andrewsarchus named The Baron. Camryn's Mount is a male Dire Wolf named Timber, and

last but not least, Juanita's Mount, a Smilodon, whose name is Mrs. Kitty.

Chapter One: Colt Gat

In New Dallas, 2036, the Black Panther Renegades get a tip that the East Jade Casino, the biggest one in the area and owned by the Vietnamese crime syndicate, has a lot of money. They figured the crime syndicate family would be a good target as the vault was filled with riches because they were going to have the money transferred to Switzerland, and the Renegades wanted to hit it before the money shipped. The signal they planned to use to start the job was a ringtone of an old-world song, *Cowboys From Hell*, on their mobile computer watches, which were sort of new at the time. The gang has them so they can research before they do the robbery. It acts as an encyclopedia from the past. It even acts as something to call a local clinic for any medical attention they may need. They can use it to send in telegrams, but there's a catch, there's no internet because of the solar flare. The gang can still use it through mobile USB cords that they got during the warehouse robbery. This is how they can research the locations before the raids and send alerts: they use data from hard drives off the black market protected from solar flares. They got the hard drives from a dealer south of the border.

Benjamin and Brian do a scope-out of the casino. While Huey and Willie Jr. strike up a conversation with the staff at the casino as a distraction, Benjamin turns on his ringtone to signal them to go in. Saul, Kai, Kenny, and Camryn enter the casino with their guns loaded. Meanwhile, Kamryn and Jed act as snipers to try and take out the guards or the mercenaries guarding the place from a private security firm, *Darkwater*. The robbery started once the group entered the casino after Kamryn and Jed took out most of the security guards with their sniper rifles. Benjamin and Saul then entered the casino

with Willie Senior and Majied. When they entered the casino, Benjamin pulled out a 12-gauge shotgun and shot in the air.

Benjamin said, "All we want is the money. None of you have to get hurt," and to Mr. H—aka Huey—he says, "Show people what happens when you try and play the hero." That is when the owner of the casino pulled out a revolver. Huey said, "Bad move Cowboy. The gun is jammed." Huey could tell the gun wouldn't fire because of a locked and dirtied cylinder. Huey then proceeded to pull the guy behind the counter and beat him up with his bare hands until the guy was a bloody mess. Willie Jr. grabs the man's wife by the hair while she was trying to tend to her husband. Willie Jr. said to the women, "Open the goddamn vault now!" That's when the man's wife opened up the vault, and the group packed up all the money.

Just as they were about to leave, they found out it was a sting-operation set up by the feds. The feds were all over the state's capital of New Dallas. One of the female federal agents said, "Hands over your heads! All of you!" Willie Jr. responded by shooting her in the head. The group then made their escape. People got injured in the process.

While trying to steal a car, Saul was shot in the leg and had to be carried by Majied. Shane was captured while he was four-sheets-to-the-wind, drunk the entire time, by a female officer of Asian descent. Juanita saw the whole thing happen. She couldn't help because they were a bunch of cops that swarmed him and started kicking him. While they were kicking him, he was swearing up a storm like a trucker. One of the other members of the group, Lanore, accidentally was shot by Majied during the shootout. She died because of friendly fire. Lanore was Kenny's girlfriend from Haiti. Brian was taken in a black van and forcibly injected with sedatives and taken to the hospital for interrogation because they figured they could

use the injury he suffered to his shoulder in order to hold him as a patient on the record.

From the chaos, it was like every man for himself. The gang had to shoot their way through the entire city, even if it meant shooting civilians that were armed because in New Dallas even these people were deputized. Eventually, they made it back to their camp. Which was located in the dried up river bed. They managed to pack everything up quickly. Saul was put in the back of the wagon pulled by bison. The women, aka the campmaids, tended to him. The group then went as far north as they could.

Meanwhile, an unlikely ally, another group, the Voodoo Warlords, who was a group that helped people from the African and Hispanic communities get back on their feet. Majied knew their leader, Fidel, and their second in command, Sandra, who was also Fidel's wife, from a protest. Fidel and Sandra got the group ready in a pep rally where they snort cocaine and drank alcohol; then, they would finish with magic mushrooms before their group would later lead an attack on the hospital that had Brian in custody and the local jail where Shane was being held.

They entered the hospital at midnight through the catacombs, a tunnel system under the city leading to the hospital. Fidel and squad A entered the infirmary where the feds were, watching over Brian. The Feds were completely caught by surprise because the Voodoo Warlords, utilizing psychological warfare, wore their masks and played recordings of African black-magic chants. After the shoot-out, they executed all the surviving Feds with machetes smuggled in from Columbia.

At the same time, squad B bombed the local jail and pulled Shane out of the jail cell. Sandra then ordered the deputies of the jail be given the choice of the Columbian neck-tie or a silver bullet. At first, Shane was scared silly because they were wearing Voodoo masks. The group then took Shane to a safe house in New

Berlin, which is a new state created by the union. Meanwhile, after the bloodbath, at the hospital, Brian was freed from his bed restraints, taken in a green van, then driven to Washington state at one of the safe houses.

One hundred and twenty-eight hours later, the rest of the gang, still separated, has finally made their way across the Canadian border to Klondikeland. They settle in an abandoned mining town called Glacier Ridge Gap.

Majied said, "Mrs. Juanita, you and the camp maids get everything set up here, and we need to keep the fire hot."

"We will stay here until the storm blows over," Benjamin said.

Meanwhile, Huey and Kamryn are hunting for elk when they encounter a man named Austin Ramirez. Austin then asked, "Hey, you guys do you mind if I join your gang?"

"Sure," said Kamryn. After they bag 3 elk, enough food for the gang, Huey and Kamryn then head back to camp with the new group member.

While Kenny does a reconnaissance mission with Willie Jr., they come across a camp that's vacant. No one has arrived yet at the camp. They see the Kamchatka Boys insignia on the black flag. They looted everything in camp, the plans for a train robbery, and some plastic explosives.

Meanwhile, Kamryn, Austin, and Huey see a straggler from the snowstorm. Huey then tackles him, zip ties him, and puts him on the back of his bear-dog mount. Then he rides back to camp with Kamryn and Austin. Huey then takes the man named James to Benjamin. Benjamin then says, "Huey what do we have here?"

Huey says this, "Found a straggler from the Kamchatka Boys."

James replied, "They don't even like me, even though I'm a member of their group."

Benjamin replied, “while there’s a code here. We don’t torture people. However, we do keep ‘em hogtied and chained to the wagon. And we give ‘em three meals a day, but for you three meals a day will be porridge or oatmeal. Huey, he’ll get sick of this diet pretty soon. Oh, and if he doesn’t talk, just release him in the wilderness. There’s a high population of Dire-Wolves in the wilderness lately.”

That’s when James said, “Okay. I’ll tell you everything if you let me stay with your group. They have several hideouts. One of the hideouts is a ranch at the foothills of Mt. St. Helen.”

Huey said this, “Me, Kamryn, Willie Jr., and Kenny will attack the ranch, but we got to do this the right way.”

Seventy-two hours later, Kenny walked near the ranch and knocked on the door of the house, providing a distraction for the rest of the gang members to shoot the Kamchatka boys that were held up there. The shootout was a small skirmish-type battle. They did a search of the entire ranch. They found the body during the search hidden in the crawl space. They looked in the attic and found the sole survivor of the ranch massacre. Her name is Claudia Temin. She will later become a driving force in avenging her husband’s death at the hands of the Kamchatka Boys.

Part Two: The Robbery

The plans for the robbery: Willie Jr. will set up some plastic explosives on a rocky hill to cause a rockslide that will halt the train passing by. While Huey, Kenny, and the rest of the gang would launch a bush-whack attack against the workers who worked on the railroads trying to clear the way and the guards that were watching nearby. Some of the railroad workers were Chinese and Koreans.

The explosives were set. Willie Sr. tripped the wire with the detonator causing rocks

to tumble on the railroad. The guards then forced the Chinese and Korean workers out of the railroad cars, made them grab pickaxes, and made them work or die at gunpoint. That’s when the group sprang into action and started shooting at all the guards. Huey grabbed a shotgun, Remington automatic, while Wille Jr. pulled out a sniper rifle and began to pick off the guards. Huey was shooting the guards left and right with the shotgun while Kenny was taking them out with the Desert Eagle handgun. After taking care of the guards, they broke off the shackles of the Chinese and Korean laborers. They started looting the railroad car that had ninety-nine bags of marbled coins and sixty bags of uncut gems. They gave most of the uncut gems to the Chinese and Korean laborers.

Huey then guided them back to civilization along with Kenny who was an expert map reader. Huey then got a telegram two hours later while he was in the small town of Hemp. A town that worked the marijuana plantation industry. The telegram told Huey to go to the Ute Overlook. Which was an old compound located on a plateau in the forest in New Laramie.

End of Chapter 1