

Ghosts in the Strawberry Field



by Johanna Hall

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A capstone project completed in April 2020, at Champlain College. Thank you so much to my professors Erik Eskilsen, Al Larsen, Robin Perlah, and Stephanie Zuppo.



By Johanna Hall

04/28/99 12:03 AM



Brown eyes

Pine and pebbles



Brown eyes

Cherry and chocolate



Brown eyes

Spruce and sandpaper



Blue eyes

Fern and frost



Late June

Too tart
blueberries

Perfectly sweet strawberries

Dead pine needles

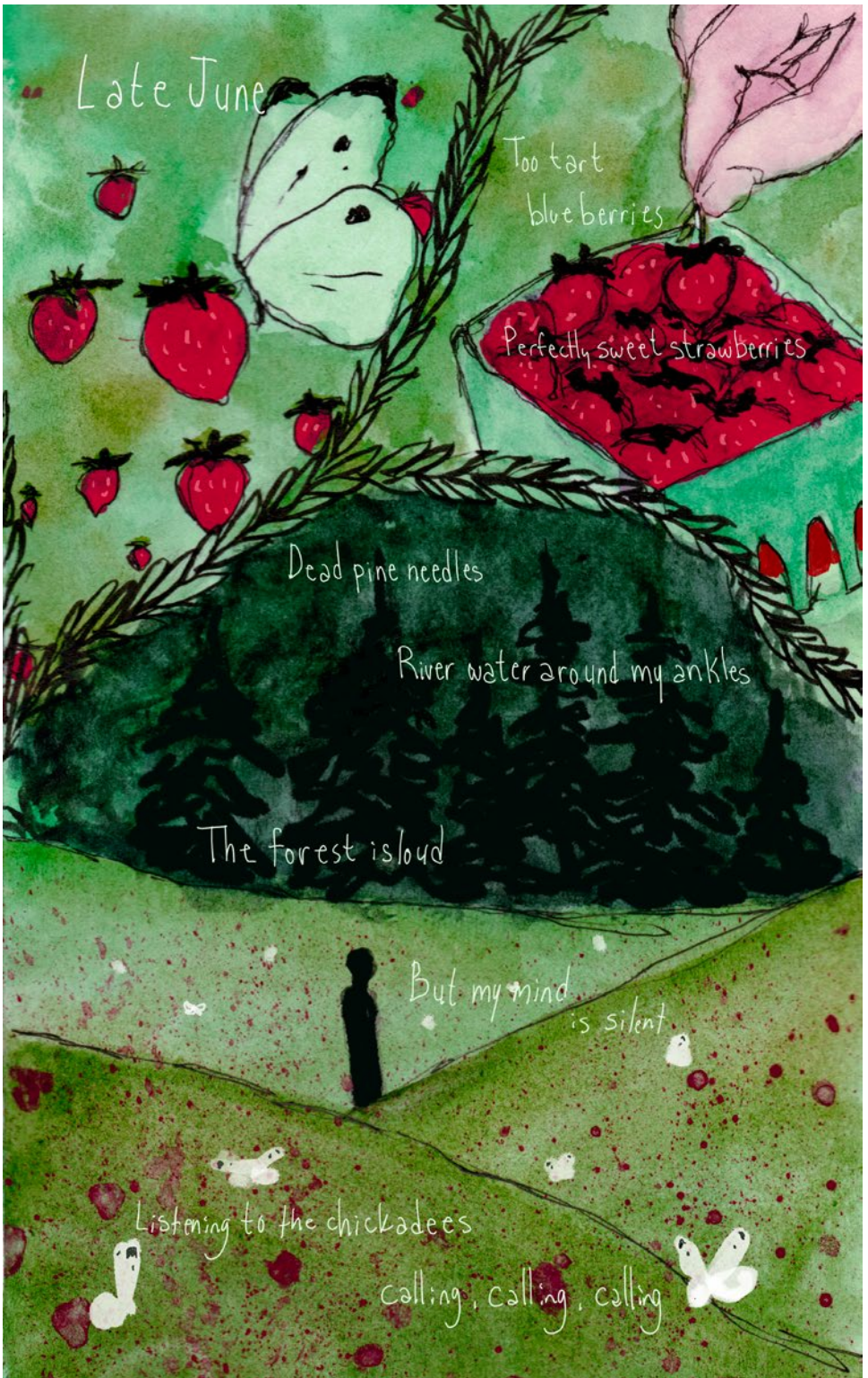
River water around my ankles

The forest is loud

But my mind
is silent

Listening to the chickadees

calling, calling, calling



Summer Night

I wish I wish upon a star

But wishing hasn't worked so far



So now I lay
me down to sleep

and pray the Lord
my sanity to keep

But if Pan or Isis or Freyja hears
I beg of you to ease
my fears.

Because it's hard to keep counting on clovers

But I'll keep looking over and over and over

7/12/09

Behind the hospital
the sunflowers sway
over cracked concrete
soaked in sunlight

If I stand on tiptoes
I can almost
peek at their petals

Do they reflect the sun?
Or bask in it like a kiss?

They seemed taller last summer
but so did she

Do you think she'll still be here
once I am tall enough
to see their faces?

Or will she wither away
in the room with no sun?

02/07/10 3:17 pm

I haven't seen you in over a month
Now, just one room over
I have my chance

But things are missing

No rumble hiss of oxygen
No spark in your hands

I can see a sliver of stained glass
Fragmented and hazy

It stains the room crimson
Or is it my splintered heart?



02/08/10

The bells are tolling
ding dong

They rattle my ribs
ding dong ding dong

But all I can hear is

she's gone she's gone

she's gone



Tomorrow

Growing is not simple
growing is dirty nails
broken shoelaces
and yanking weeds

growing is a 25
cent sewing kit
and dried
forget me nots

Find joy in the change,
not fear

You have to shed
your first teeth
for a sharper bite

and bury yesterday
to grow tomorrow



