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Paper

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Paper

Gabrielle Lehmann

One day she met a charming man
Whose heart was made of paper
Beneath a latticed wooden cage
And skin as thin as vapor
With fingers wrapped in threads of red
And gold, no metal bands instead
Now taking hers in his he said
“My dear you scant could fathom
How laurels sit atop the head
Of one
who’s never had them”

“But follow me, my dear,” said he
“I will bestow you treasure
And it will be, quite certainly,
Beyond all hope of measure”

The darling dear allowed him near
For through his pane of cellophane
So certain was she his veneer
And self could only be the same
No man could hide behind a glass
If thinly veiled lies might pass
Revealed was he before the lass
And he could hide no treason
Until he broke his promise vast
She trusted in his reason

An aeon came and ages went
And though her love presented
A lavish wealth of great extent
His spouse was not contented

Beneath the strings his fingers bled
The plaster held no polish
No man beneath the ruby red
Which wind could not demolish
He held no secret in his breast
No sin in him could she attest
The gauzy grace no soul possessed

His ribcage rattled hollow
A heartless jest which proved at best
A liquor hard to swallow

The paper-hearted man returned
No love that she imparted
Although her love was never spurned
A romance never started
So she would see the tinder burned
That left her broken hearted

And all the outrage she suppressed
Rose now to confrontation
Engulfed the man of tissue flesh
In total condemnation
Now facing death without parole
His bride had lost all self-control
An empty promise took its toll
He knew this day was dawning
She burned the poor boy's wicker soul
Beneath the autumn awning

The Run

Josh Kunowski

I'm running in the rain
The clouds of guilt pouring onto my withered mind
With each rain drop I feel a needle go through my sanity
The shadows of paranoia lurking behind me
With each step the shadows grow darker and darker
I reach a forest
The branches of depression scratch away my skin
I trip and fall
Damp mud of agony splashes and burns my eyes
I get up and run blindly through the forest
The rain stops
The mud dries and falls off
The clouds and shadows disappear
I make my way back home
The rain dries
And all that's left
Is the sun shining down on me