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## Avian Dinosaur

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# Caroline

Michael Perry

Staszak: Avian Dinosaur

*Tat, tat, tat, tat.*

It was her. And the sound of her footsteps from behind me.

“Hey,” she said.

“Hey!” she exclaimed.

“HEY!” she yelled.

I looked over my shoulder.

There she was.

I said, “Yeah, what is it?”

She glanced up at me with probing, doe-like eyes. “Would you like to eat lunch with me today?”

“You ask me this every day . . .”

“I do?” she said as she playfully tugged on my sleeve, her waist-long hair swathing the air about her.

“Yeah. And you know the answer.”

She laughed and hugged me.

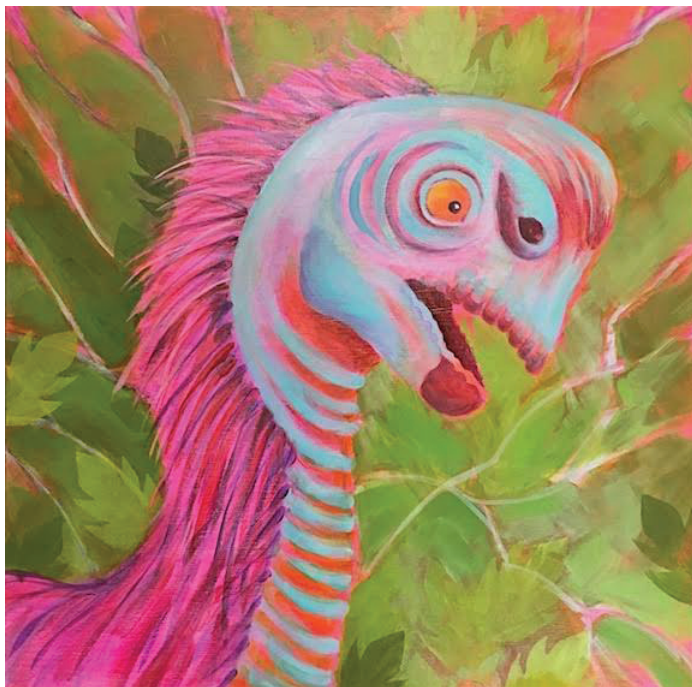
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Yeah, that was Caroline. Lanky, gawky, doofy and dorky: she was every “y” that

had a perturbing connotation and then some. She was a lot of things, but she was also the best, last, and only self-proclaimed fangirl I ever had.

I remember how whenever her sniper-sight caught me in the halls, it was over — it was time for a production! She’d throw her math/science/history/whatever textbooks at some stranger beside her (who would surprisingly always catch them) and then rush over and by rush, I mean sprint. Yeah, she’d run, and run, slamming little hunched wallflowers aside and jumping over small conclaves of schoolgirls sitting on the floor. She was always there, somewhere near me, running.

If you asked anybody about her, nobody would’ve said she was a knockout. Her braces were always tangled with gristle and her face was sparingly pocketed with red. She was of an average weight but wore



**Avian Dinosaur**  
Acrylic painting on  
24" x 24" canvas  
Nancy L. Staszak