

# The Prairie Light Review

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Volume 46  
Number 2 *Spring 2024*

Article 27

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Spring 5-1-2024

## Before Anyone Noticed

Juno Nightingale  
*College of DuPage*

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### Recommended Citation

Nightingale, Juno (2024) "Before Anyone Noticed," *The Prairie Light Review*. Vol. 46: No. 2, Article 27.  
Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol46/iss2/27>

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## Rainforest



Nephele Kay — Acrylic Paint on Canvas

## Before Anyone Noticed

Juno Nightingale

When I was young, there was a field where no one cared to go  
Down by the lake where I tried and failed to learn how to skip stones  
Wearing a crown of golden flowers made of nothing more than weeds  
I tripped over nothing while lost in thought and scraped my knees  
Tears dripped down my eyes with every step on my way back home  
I cleaned up and hid the bruises and scars before anyone noticed

When I grew up, everyone around me appeared to shine and glow  
Surrounded by constellations, each star more brilliant than the last  
Made up of the universe, they had everything before they even asked  
And yet they burn out with sorrow in a way more beautiful than mine  
Unworthy of their graceful pain, forced to believe everything was fine  
I wiped away my tears with worn-out sleeves before anyone noticed

Last night I was at the lake where I failed to learn to skip stones long ago  
It's quiet without the stars since they all left home to live across the skies  
Yet somehow I'm still here, trying to cover the sound of my shameful cries  
No matter how desperately I want to leave, gravity always drags me back in  
Life moves on like dandelion seeds as they are carried away by the wind  
Yet I'll always end up back home before anyone noticed I was gone