

**Micah****Come With Me and Swing**

Come with me and swing.  
A tree awaits with mirror leaves  
And wings that break and spear with ease  
That fabric thought so rigid true  
Of ages past and lives renewed.  
Though fate evades my pen's attempts  
To rewrite fortune's river bends,  
I'll show you where my thread begins,  
Two children in the summer wind.  
To sail the seas of history,  
Come with me and swing

**Ben****flash sweats**

i'm not gonna lie to you,  
i tried to do your fucking challenge,  
pressed my eyelids closed tight every night  
had my journal by my bedside, ready to write  
  
cold feet got me buried in the sheets,  
like my body can't identify the heat until i'm already asleep  
but it's never deep enough to dream  
  
i wake up, burning like a furnace,  
4 am and i already know that i ain't gettin' any more rest  
close the notebook on my pen

baby maybe i'm not real, no i'm the one  
who's sitting here in silence as the morning comes  
when the morning comes

i'll be keeping on my feet in dreamless sleep  
adrift between my fantasies and feelings  
guess there's nothin' in my head but second guesses, now  
and i'm lining all my thoughts up, just to put 'em down

**Shannon**

**Origami Cathedral**

Walls of paper will not stand, cannot stand,  
As tempests rage and canyons fill with rain  
Well-planned, but built out of spindles and  
Destined for ruin upon rocky terrain.  
Tongues dipped in silver can gather a crowd  
Filling the stands with circuses and bread.  
This lions' feast bloats the head of the proud  
Mocking the martyred who paid with their red.  
This stone foundation you have chosen well,  
But on holy ground, you have offended -  
Folded a paper monument to Self  
And doomed witnesses who attended.  
Heaven's tears wash the blasphemy away;  
Noah's warning for the pastor who preys.

**Jamison**

**Immersion Forward**

The trailblazer goes forth without concern.  
Not for shallow breath, nor for marching time,  
Beyond sheep's sight, they thirst for lessons learned.  
Generations follow without decline.

Clipped thread tethering all but memory.  
The thirsty sheep drink from pools of wisdom,  
Destined to become and becoming still.  
Themselves trailblazers with despair undone.

**@annamariemiltonwriter**

**IMPLANTATION**

The specimen is a female  
Of Asian descent  
Fourteen years of age  
The specimen was admitted to the hospital  
For unrelated reasons  
And chosen at random.

Implantation began at noon.

The specimen reported feeling ill  
Immediately following implantation  
The specimen began rapidly convulsing  
And had to be restrained

According to the log,  
The specimen produced white ooze  
And patches of blood  
From the stomach area

After a period of seven days  
During which all changes were duly noted,  
The specimen developed bloblike contusions on the stomach  
That were observed  
To move independently

*She's screaming at them to make it end  
But they don't listen*

After an extended period of convulsions  
During which the specimen was again restrained,  
The specimen's vitals shut down  
And the implanted life form  
Was found to be  
Necrotic  
  
A fascinating discovery  
"Effects of an extraterrestrial life form on the human body over an extended period  
Characterized for the first time"  
Sure to rock  
The scientific establishment  
  
*A girl is dead  
And the men walk away with prizes.*