

ISSUE #15

**BLACK** | *Grey* | **WHITE**

AUGUST 2018

*Creativity Is Never Overrated*



Welcome to the  
colourful world  
of

**BLACK** | *Grey* | **WHITE**

**THEME: BLUE**

“We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. And medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life.

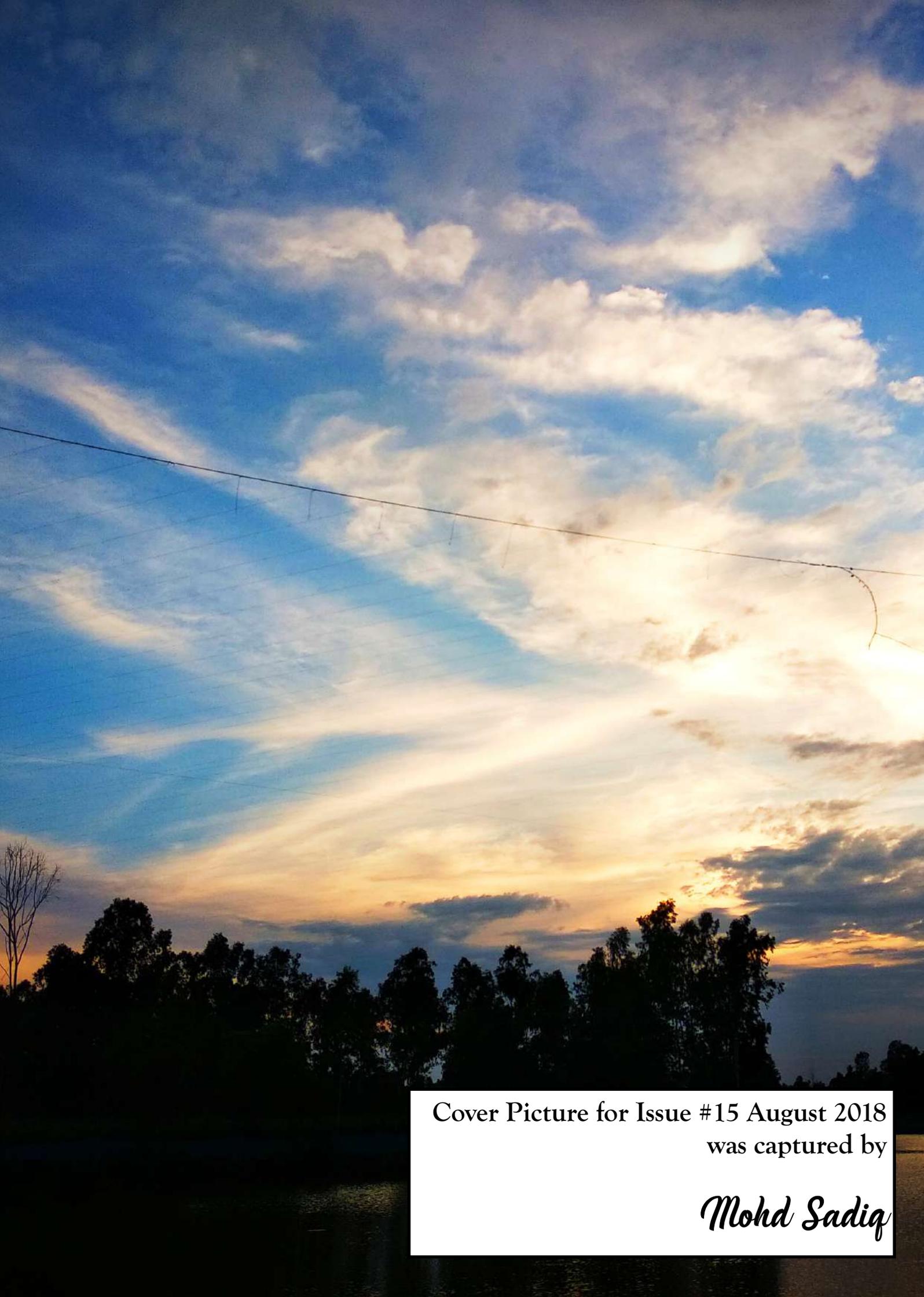
But poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for.”

- Dead Poets Society





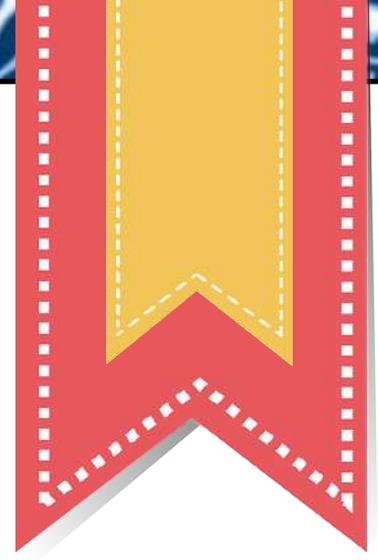
“Blue Hues” by Alan James  
on Page 18



Cover Picture for Issue #15 August 2018  
was captured by

*Mohd Sadiq*

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# About Us

Ink is Black. Paper is White. Issues are mostly Grey because they exhibit thoughts of our grey matter. Hence, our name. Worry not, our thoughts and words are colourful.

BLACK | Grey | WHITE is an online Magazine which plans to launch an Issue every month.

Our magazine is a montage of poetry, write-ups, illustrations, artworks and just about anything. We aim to spread positivity through awareness and gain experience along with it.

Feel free to submit whatever you want to. We encourage all types of submissions.

You can read check out our Blog to join our team or read the submission guidelines or just to support us.

Blog: [www.blackgreywhitemagazine.wordpress.com](http://www.blackgreywhitemagazine.wordpress.com)

Facebook: BLACK | Grey | WHITE

Instagram/Twitter: @blackgreywhitemagazine

Thank you for supporting us!

Thank you for believing in us!

Love

BLACK | Grey | WHITE

# Our Team



*Manavi Kunwar*  
Founder and Editor-In-Chief



*Saleha Siddiqui*  
Founder and Editor-In-Chief



*Aiman Wahab*  
Head Editor  
Writer's Clan



*Jwairiah Khan*  
Head  
Illustrations and Artworks



*Tazmeen Alam*  
Head  
Human Resources

# Our Team



*Vrishabh Patel*  
Sub-Editor



*Hashmat Naiyareen*  
Sub-Editor



*Shreya Gupta*  
Sub-Editor



*Manya Chaudhary*  
Writer



*Atiba Sheikh*  
Writer



*Devanshi Gupta*  
Writer



*Simran Riyaz*  
Writer



*Shreyashi Tiwari*  
Writer



*Mantasha Sayed*  
Writer



*Sanjana Kabadi*  
Writer



*Hassan Saeed*  
Writer



*Ashwin Thomas*  
Writer

# From the Editor's Desk



Greetings, Readers!

Benjamin Franklin once said, “Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.”

BLACK | Grey | WHITE aims to kill two birds with one stone. We are a magazine filled with some amazing people willing to use our talent to leave our mark on the world or at least, those who read our magazine. Even if a single person who reads what we write and portray is impacted, we will have done something amazing. Thus, we will have contributed to a cause greater than ourselves.

The power that the youth hold is so strong that it can be used to create impact that the other generations could not create. In recent years, we have noticed that the youth have stepped out of the comfort zones that previous generations were not able to step out of because of certain reasons. But given the resources and ideas that we have access to, a lot can be done to create a positive impact on this world if we put our minds to it.

BLACK | Grey | WHITE aims to be a magazine and a platform accessible to everyone. We encourage all types of talents and expressions of thoughts.

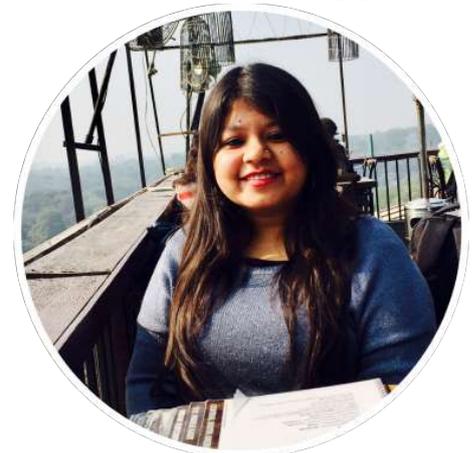
As the Editor-In-Chief, it is my job to make sure that every form of Art, be writing or photography, has the desired effect over the reader and that our message is conveyed in a way that is appreciated by everyone. I aim to make this as impactful as I can by using my own thoughts and creativity to make it a success.

Hoping that whatever we do is appreciated and we thank everyone for their support.

Thank you for believing in us!

*Manavi Kunwar*

Founder and Editor-In-Chief



# From the Editor's Desk

A very warm welcome to all you readers!

We are very excited to bring forth the latest issue of our magazine and are grateful to everyone taking out time to read it.



Through BLACK | Grey | WHITE, we aim to reach the youth and spread positive vibes and awareness by gathering and creating content that many people could relate to. We aim to promote reading and understanding each other's viewpoints through written thoughts, to create sparks of curiosity and wonder through art and poetry, just to touch your heart and revive the beauty of expression in this manner.

In our busy lives, I believe, if we take out time to read a little, appreciate art and try to understand the power of emotions through poetry, we might strike a chord somewhere, find a place of sense and peace of mind, and a stage which could create a powerful impact upon our developing minds in the most fun and accessible way possible.

Thomas Merton rightly says that "Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time".

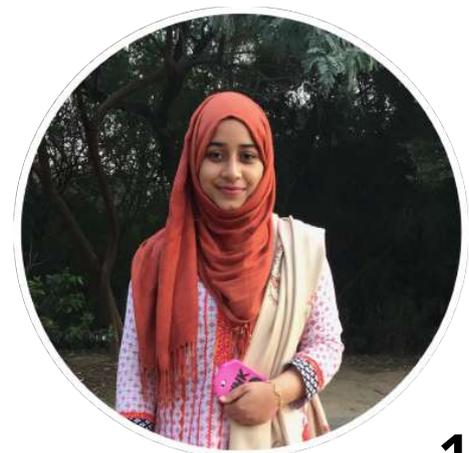
We created this platform to promote bright and colourful ideas in the grey matter of our brains, and through this we aim to tap into new understandings, explore ambiguities and to meet new people who are equally enthusiastic about art.

Being the Editor-In-Chief, I want to do my best to convert my ideas into a reality and through your support, we will keep creating better content in the future and discovering a lot of untapped potential.

Happy reading!

*Saleha Siddiqui*

Founder and Editor-In-Chief



# BGW Minis

BGW Minis are a 4-5 Line Stories, Proses or Poems based around a word or a topic. These are the best ones submitted by our team.

Word: SKY

Paint the sky over me.  
Paint it black, romantically.  
For I want to see  
The red stars shine  
On my skin flawlessly.  
And  
The stardust be showered  
Over me,  
With love  
That the moon has been  
Eclipsing over years.

*Simean Riyaz*

"Dad, look at the sky. The blue is so beautiful, isn't it?" The little boy laughed.  
"Yes son. Do you know why the sky is blue?"  
"God must have painted it that way."  
"No. You'll study it later that the sky is blue because of dust particles."  
"But they're dirty, aren't they?"  
"Indeed they are. But your flaws are what makes you human. They way you stand out."  
"...umm, I didn't get you, Dad."  
"Someday you will." The father was smiling.

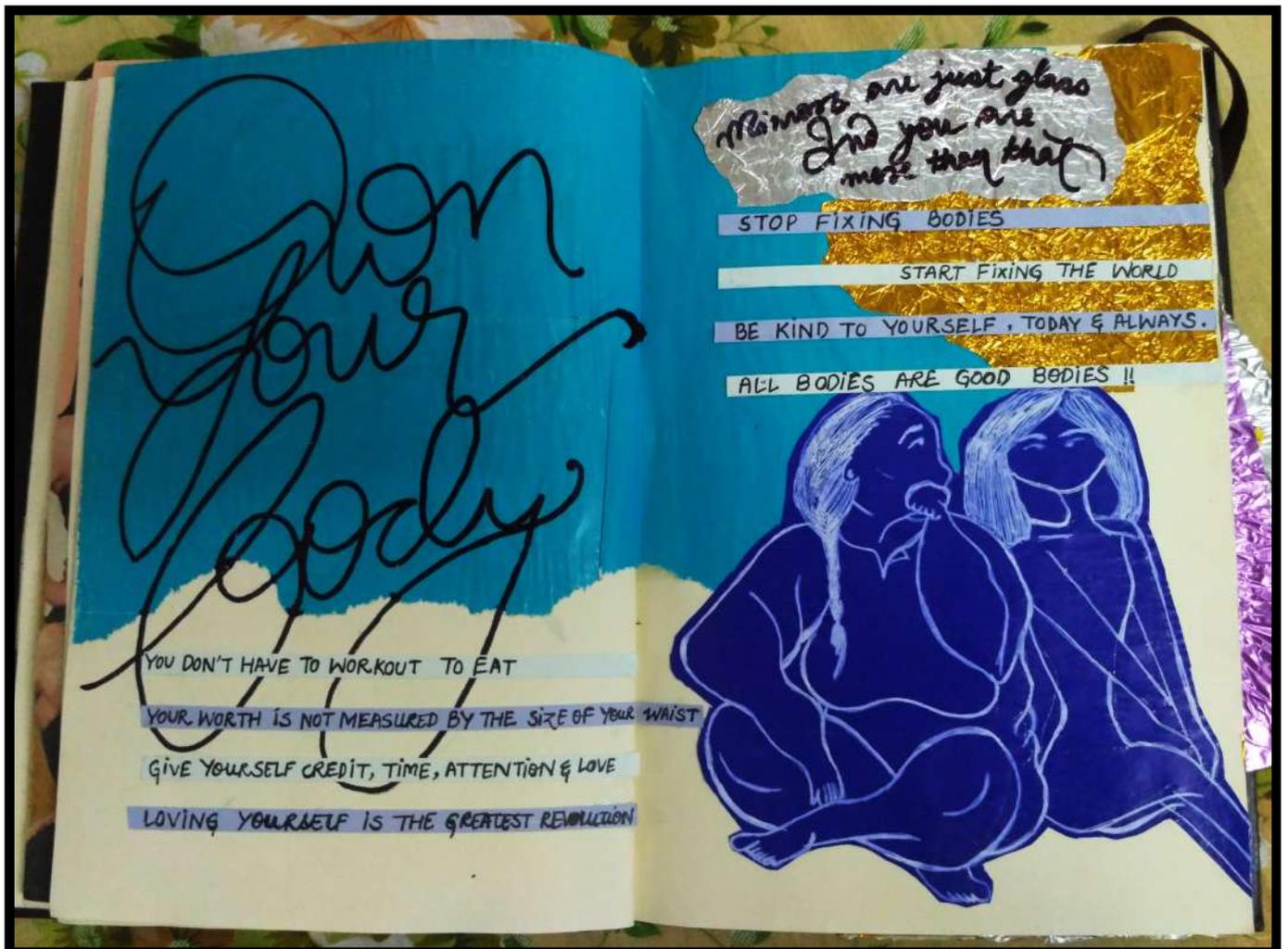
*Shreya Gupta*

I felt my bosom lift up,  
As the cotton and silver swirls inside me filled up with moisture.  
The tiny humans were seeing grey and black battle inside me, I could tell,  
Their expectant faces turned upwards,  
Waiting for the first drops of rain.  
As grief overcame me,  
I felt my shoulders heave  
Grief for all the misery that befalls  
These lives that I shelter.  
And I wept,  
Wept bitterly,  
Tears sliding down my cheeks  
And on to the land underneath me.  
But the humans below  
Seemed to be  
cheering.

*Devanshi Gupta*

# Own your Body

Juwairiah Khan



# The Blues

Hashmat Naiyareen

A guitar stringing in the highest of frequencies, a saxophone playing its tune, and a dum-dum rhythm grasping the atmosphere. That's what you feel when you listen to "the blues", a musical genre that is impossible to define. The continuing rhythm progression, a deep bass line and lyrics evoking emotions, wisdom and sadness.

## Origin

The Blues does not have a definitive origin due to very poor documentation and discrimination in U.S., but is believed to have begun in the 1890s, with deep roots in American culture. Having derived from the phrase, Blue Devils, which suggests melancholy and sadness, the Blues themes do revolve around the same, although not limiting to only those. The Blues were associated with the call and response songs that were composed by the slaves. Throughout history, the blues is known for expressing life's struggles and turmoil, alongside joy and celebration.

In 1908, Antonio Maggio published the first blues sheet music "I got the blues", introducing the term 'blues' for the first time. In 1912, W.C. Handy, famously known as the Father of the Blues, published a blues sheet for the song "Memphis Blues". Mamie Smith recorded the first blues song, a 1920 rendition of Percy Bradford's "Crazy Blues".

The 1920s saw a rage in the spreading of the blues as a musical genre in the whole United States. Singers, especially African American women were documented on film, and those records were sold to the white audience. Performers like Robert Johnson, Charlie Patton and Blind Willie McTell played their lyrics alongside a single guitar. Unfortunately, this music was limited to the general public, who was still in the dark when it came to the blues. Only the elite had the noble opportunity to bless their senses with this musical genre.

### *How did it reach the common man's ears?*

The years after the WW 2, USA witnessed the second great migration. The African Americans abandoned the South in search of better financial opportunities. Thus, came the emergence of a sub-genre of music, called the Chicago blues. Muddy Waters' Mannish boy became one of the top hits of the time. Little Walter, Sonny Boy Williamson became pioneers of rhythm and blues, that were recorded and bought by black people. Another sub-genre of the blues was the Mississippi Delta Blues. It was one of the earliest styles, and were played by guitar, harmonica, and cigar-box guitar. Mississippi Fred McDowell, Robert Johnson and Big Joe Williams were few of the notable musicians of this genre. Country Blues was another sub-genre, also known as the folk blues. This style was dominantly acoustic, with subtle entrances of guitar music. John Hammock and Skip James's music reverberated all over the U.S.

### *What were the key elements of the blues?*

Rhythm and timbre dominated the genre of the blues. Completely raw in its texture, the blues did not pretend. It gave the feeling of assertion of emotions and stability of rhythm. The music emancipated the musicians. It brought about a complex consummation of the feelings that the musicians brought with them.

The beats postulate snap of fingers and tapping of feet. It unnerves the entire body with a musical sensation that is only felt by the nerves running in our body.

### *How did it influence the other genres of music?*

Cultural appropriation by the white performers and music executives that led to ransacking of the blues in the 1950s was a sad bump in the musical history of the blues. Elvis Presley took away the rhythm from the blues, whereas The Beatles and The Rolling Stones adapted and repackaged various blues mannerism and presented them to naive American teenagers as something brand new.

Hip-Hop takes the rhythm of the blues, which has a unique blend of aching and swagger. Jazz, which depends highly on the horn, derives its music from the blues' guitar. R&B extracts the idea of having a soul in music from the blues, in turn expressing powerful emotions through passion.

Lightnin; Hopkins and Louis Armstrong have been boldly propagating the blues through their music that is still very popular among the classic music lovers.

Although, the blues, in its originality, has lost its core essence, its examples still live to revive its rhythm in our soul.



# BLUES HUES

*Alan James*







# *My Dreams are Blue*

*Manya Chaudhary*

I still dream of the forgetful days,  
We were together with our different ways.

I still dream of the future,  
That we promised to build together.  
We used to sit on the monumental terrace,  
Of that lovely future dream palace.

I dream that I'm with you again,

If only as the many men  
That have pursued your heart,  
But could never tear us apart.

I dream and keep on dreaming,  
That's my only way of screaming.  
Do you realise how hard it hit me?  
When you mercilessly just left me?

I still dream of you to survive,  
Create an illusion that you're alive.

It breaks my heart into pieces,  
I'm fabricating false happiness.

I still dream of you to survive,  
Create an illusion that you're alive.  
It breaks my heart into pieces,  
I'm fabricating false happiness.  
I still dream of you laughing with me,  
Announcing that you love me.  
But you see this sneaky heart of mine,  
Looks through it, nothing is fine.  
I still madly, deeply love you,  
All my dreams have turned blue.  
I dream that you are here,  
Can't convince myself, I fear.  
I still dream of you, I cope.  
Hoping against all hope,  
That someone will come along,  
And wake me up through dawn.  
I ask of only one simple thing,  
Never show me day dreaming.

# Sadness is not the same as Depression

*Devanshi Gupta*

In our current society, when someone faces physical discomfort, people line up to provide them sympathy. However, when someone is struck by a mental illness, people are bewildered. Often, those struggling with these issues fail to find any ounce of compassion in people around them and instead, are forced to retreat even further into their own shell. On an average, someone suffering from a mental health problem takes as much as 10 years to seek help, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

One of the main reasons for the tragedy that befalls these souls is the haze of uncertainty that revolves around the very concept of mental disorders. Mental illnesses aren't tangible. It's easy to show a cut on the forearm, but it's harder to brandish the scars that depression has carved on one's soul.

To someone who's never fallen into the black hole of depression, it is a common error to assume that depression is not that big a deal. People may think and even say that, from time to time, they feel blue too. Doesn't that mean they're depressed as well? However, clinical depression is different from an occasional plummet of one's mood. It is a well of gritty panels and slippery hand-holds in which one keeps falling, but the ground never comes. It is a constant state of mind in which spirals of negative thoughts entrap the sanity of a person.

While I have never combatted this illness myself, extensive research makes it clear that depression is debilitating and stops a person from carrying out everyday activities. A curtain of lethargy and

indifference hampers their functioning. Any purpose or meaning in life elude them.

Common symptoms of depression are excessive feelings of worthlessness and guilt, lack of interest in activities previously enjoyed by an individual, significant changes in weight or appetite, overwhelming fatigue, and difficulty sleeping, to name a few.

Many factors may have caused this state of things—genetic factors, external factors, situational factors, or biological factors, i.e. many that are out of the direct control of the sufferer.

Thus, the next time, you come across someone who confides their struggles to you, perhaps you'll find yourself better equipped to understand their situation and less eager to equate their disorders with your natural and normal feelings of sadness. There are definitive steps that can be taken to treat what is, after all, an illness. For that, though, we need to first dispel the fog that clouds society's vision from the reality of mental disorders.

# FORGET THE BLUE

*Hassan Saeed*

Pour your heart out tonight and walk on to the side of the river -  
because it's a full moon night.

Pour your heart out tonight and write on every edge of your paper  
book - because it's the beginning of the new year.

Pour your heart out tonight and fill your rage with laughter -  
because tomorrow isn't going to be Monday again.

Pour your heart out tonight and feel alive - because you are  
someone to be cared about.

Forget the blues of your life and live the beauty, keep the faith  
honey,

One day it won't mean anything to you anymore.

One day it won't kill you anymore.

The blue of your life won't kill you anymore.



# SUBMISSIONS

Contributors:

**Juveriya Khan**  
**Travel with Danish**  
**Krishna Nawalgaria**  
**Netra Narang**  
**Nidhi Minz**

# Familiar

*Netra Narang*









# Joy

Nidhi Minz





# Painting

Juveriya Khan





Javeria Fakir Han



Javeriaz Khan



# Unhinged

Krishna Nawalgaria

# Submission Guidelines

We accept submissions of all sorts. Articles, Poetry, Photography, Comic Strips, Artworks, literally anything. We encourage all topics apart from Politics because it can cause conflict and we aim to spread positivity.

To submit to us, send us an email on [contactblackgreywhite@gmail.com](mailto:contactblackgreywhite@gmail.com) with the subject as SUBMISSION: \*Category\*. For example, if you want to submit an artwork, the subject will be SUBMISSION: Artwork.

We promise get back to you within two weeks and if we cannot publish your piece in our issue, we guarantee a feedback.

For queries, contact us:  
[contactblackgreywhite@gmail.com](mailto:contactblackgreywhite@gmail.com)

Check out our Blog:  
[www.blackgreywhitemagazine.wordpress.com](http://www.blackgreywhitemagazine.wordpress.com)

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**Thank you for believing in us!**

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