

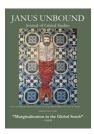
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Andreae Callanan

A ghost

—After a drawing by Eleanor Callanan, age 4

Ooooo, is what I'm saying. Ooooo, and I say it so hard that my sounds break their floating purple speech balloon. When I say ooooo, you had better believe

I mean it.

I glow golden, pure auric aura, aurora eyes green like copper flame, atomic excitation. They are filled with light and they want to burst out of my head.

I have taught myself to look forward and backward at the same time.

I do it by wrenching myself 'round, wringing myself out like a washcloth. I am weightless and I have no spine, so it isn't very difficult.

Sometimes I feel as though my body just barely suffers my mind, my thoughts oppressive as pollen clouds, mugwort and ragweed rampant and fractious. Lung-plugging, spirit-stifling.

Ooooo, I say. Ooooo.

Sometimes I wonder if my mind will abandon my body altogether, rise up out of me, spectral, phosphorescent, lifting luminous from the muck



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A ghost

and decay of this sullen world.

Sometimes I remember: it already has.

Biography

Andreae Callanan is a doctoral candidate in English at Memorial University, and author of *The Debt* (Biblioasis, 2021).