

## Second Place (7-12): Short Fiction



**Katie Brown**

PRHS

### Untitled Fiction

There once was a girl who thought she was good for anything. She tried everything she could do but, she always failed

One day, she went walking deep in the forest to clear her thoughts and she came across a cave that had blood on the ground in front of it. She wondered if an animal was killed so she got a flash light from her backpack and went inside the cave to look around.

At first, she couldn't see anything and was about to get leave, but then she saw a little boy sitting on a rock. He had blood on his shirt and on the ground in front of him was a mountain lion. On his right arm was a bite mark the size of a baseball. He looked like he was in pain because he just sat there with terror in his eyes, still and looking at the animal.

"Are you ok?" she asked him, but he didn't say anything, he just began to cry.

“They’re going to come! Run and don’t ever come back here again.” She was about to reach for him but he got up, and ran away. She followed him, not wanting to leave him alone, but she soon fell too far behind and had no idea where he went.

She heard a scream from somewhere deep in the cave. She walked cautiously toward the sound and found a big steel door. It was open just enough for someone to fit in and light was coming out of the door; it looked so bright, it was almost like the sun.

She was baffled as to how a door was inside of a cave, but she needed to know if the little boy was okay. She slipped in the door, but it wasn’t what she had expected to be on the other side.

She walked in, and it was like walking into a store, but it was abandoned. Everything was wrecked and food was all on the floor. She walked in slowly and looked around. She went to the newspapers and it was last week’s copy. She heard footsteps coming from behind her. She turned around and the little boy was there, but he looked much worse and didn’t run from her this time. “It’s ok, I’m here to help you” she said to him but he still didn’t talk.

He had no color to his skin, his expression; blank, his eyes; the color of blood. He ran towards her, like he wanted to eat her. She put her hands out, trying to stop him from biting her, but he had the strength of a man and forced her on the ground. She grabbed a jar of pickles that was lying on the floor in front of her and smashed it on his head. He fell on the ground and she got up.

She was scared and wanted to leave but, was in too much shock. Why did the boy want to eat her? Why was there a store in a cave? She just wanted answers, so she wanted to explore more. She picked up a broomstick and went to the door.

It was like a little town. There were stores and houses, but no people. She wondered who was able to build a town in a cave. It was modern just like her town, but was much smaller. She was getting scared to look anywhere else and decided to leave. She got to the door when she felt a cool, hard thing held up to her head.

“You’re not going anywhere.” A deep voice said. She turned her head to find a man. He didn’t look like the little boy. He had green eyes, and had color to this face and wasn’t bloody at all. He took another look at her and slowly put her gun down.

“You’re not one of them.” He backed away and apologized for his action. “What are they?” She needed to know so that the police would know what was happening in this strange place. He told her, he didn’t really know himself, just that his sister had tried to bite him. She told him about the little boy who also tried biting her. “It’s amazing that you managed to stay alive this long. Our mayor said that we were all going to have a different reaction to our new medicine that we had to take for our sickness.” He told her that just last week, everyone started to get a bad sickness, and mostly everyone was in the hospital.

He said that he and some others were hiding from the people who were sick because they didn’t want to catch it.

“Well, where I’m from is safe and we can get you and the others out of her.”

“What are you talking about? There is nowhere else, but here.”