

Keet Geniza

**PORTFOLIO**

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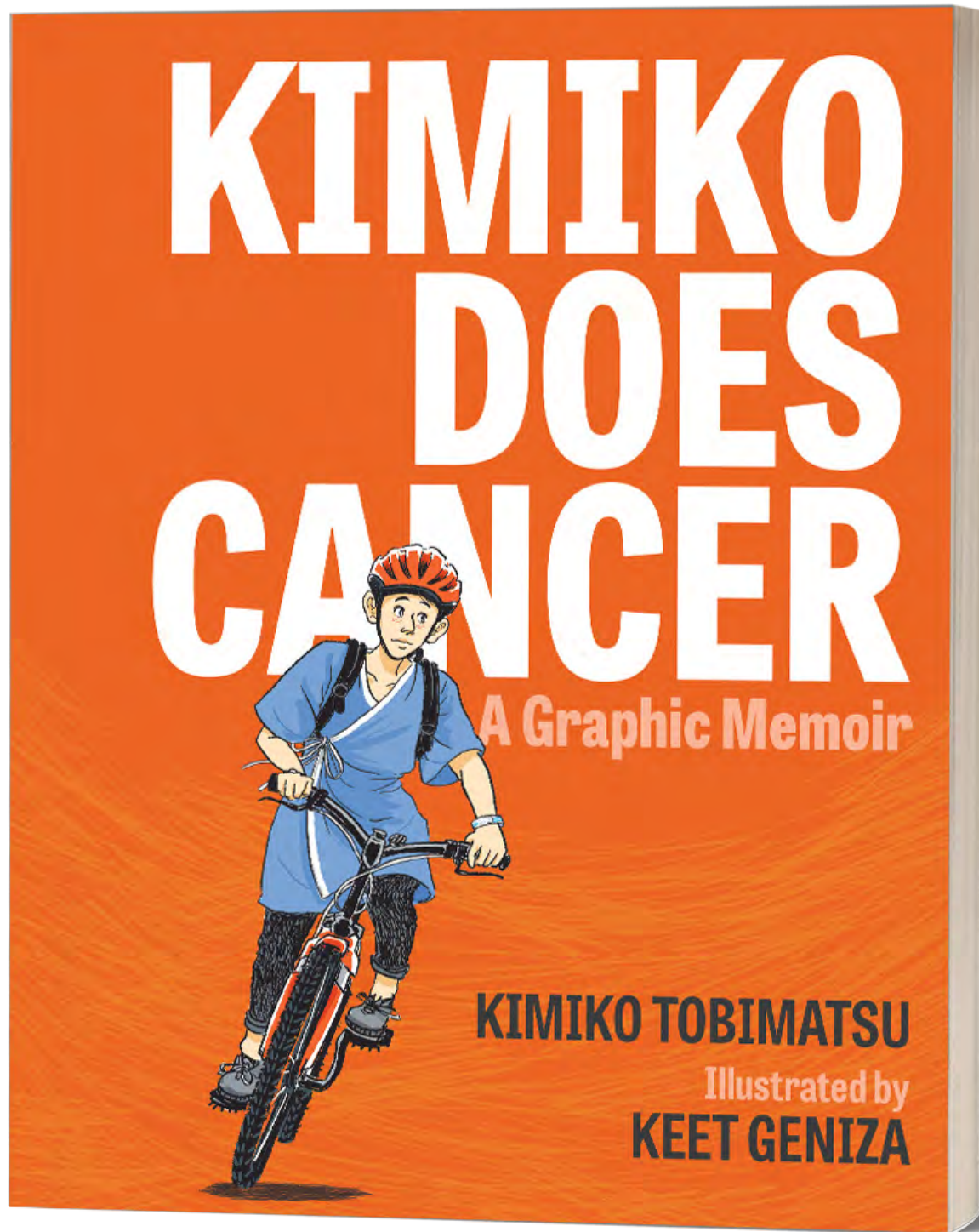
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I am constantly weighing my options.



Which would be worse right now, a hot flash or a chill?



Sigh I could never wear that many items at once.

Traveling to hot climates is a problem.



Wait, is this what it's gonna feel like the whole time?

But travelling in general also requires more planning.



Planning my life to minimize the chance of a hot flash is exhausting. I hate how they intrude on my life—not only are they uncomfortable, they also remind me that I had cancer.

My doctors also don't fully know the long-term impact of keeping someone my age (i.e. in their 20s) in menopause.



Simone Can you grab cauliflower on the way?

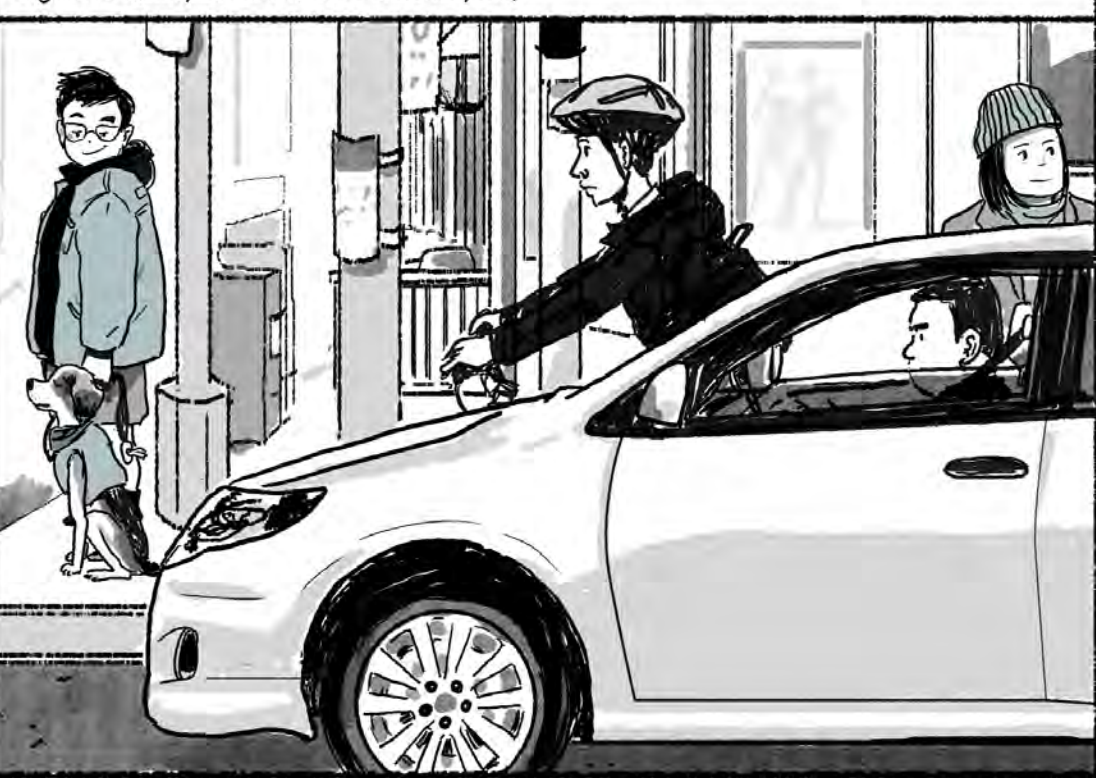
Okay. See you soon.

I just have to go on with my life.



But what my doctors do know isn't exactly comforting.

Induced menopause gives rise to the same risks as natural menopause (i.e. osteoporosis, cognitive issues, cardiovascular disease, etc).



# The Last Diet

by Keet Geniza



For my graduation gift, my parents bought me a round trip ticket to accompany my dad on a visit to the Philippines. It was my first time to come back since migrating in 2006.

Hey pals, I'm visiting in August!

OMG YAY FINALLY I miss u!

bring home chocolate heheheh

KTAK KTAK KTAK

OOOOOOH YEAH

Can't wait 2 hang buddyyy

LIBRE NAMAN

WOW!!!!

I was excited, of course. I wanted to see my friends.

But I was also filled with dread at the thought of visiting my family.

SLAP!

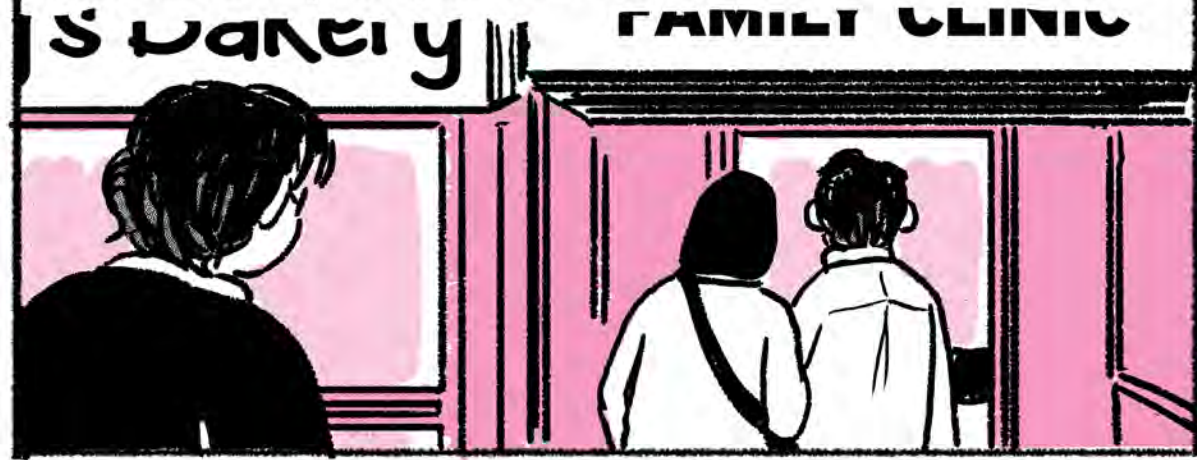
You've gotten fatter!

What have you been eating?!

OMG you're so HUGE

When are you going to reduce?

The trip was in August. I thought I'd spend the months before the trip losing weight. My parents were more than happy to support this, since they have tried (and failed) to make me lose weight many times since I was a kid.

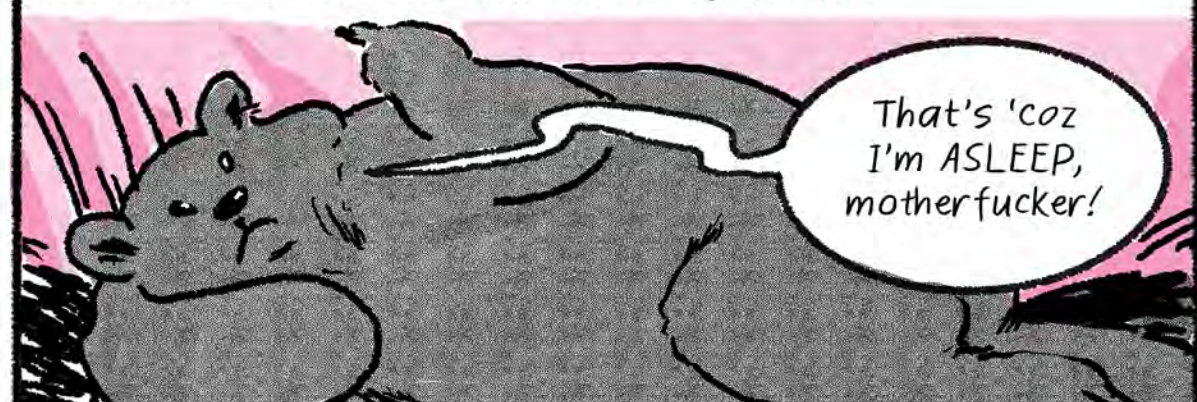


My family doctor recommended Dr. Bewn's\* Metabolic Diet, which was a low-carb, high protein meal plan designed based on the principles of ketosis.

**"I will help only those who help themselves."**

-Dr. Billy B. Bewn

Ketosis is the body's way of adapting metabolism to allow the body to survive famine. When food is not readily available, your body breaks down ketones, a type of fuel the liver produces from fat reserves in your body. Bears do it in hibernation. And, claims Dr. Bewn, bears manage just fine.



\*Name changed.



The main lure of the Bewn diet was that it was fast. In my head the threat of my family's fatphobia was dire enough. "The Bewn boon" claimed that I could eat almost whatever I want (not true) and still have energy to do my tasks (also not true).



In truth, the Bewn Diet was a lean meat, no rice, half-salt, low fat food plan with an allotted packet of Splenda per day to sweeten the deal. It had prescribed boring recipes which were an insult to my cooking ability. Not that I had much energy to cook anyway. I was often irritable and snappy.



My energy levels severely dropped. Before the diet, my brother and I often took a long walk after dinner.



The program had weekly weigh-ins. We had to take our urine samples to be ~~policed~~ analysed for chemical content. I quickly grew to resent these weekly weigh-ins, even as they praised me for losing the \*projected weight\*. My hunger and hate coiled like twin snakes in my belly.

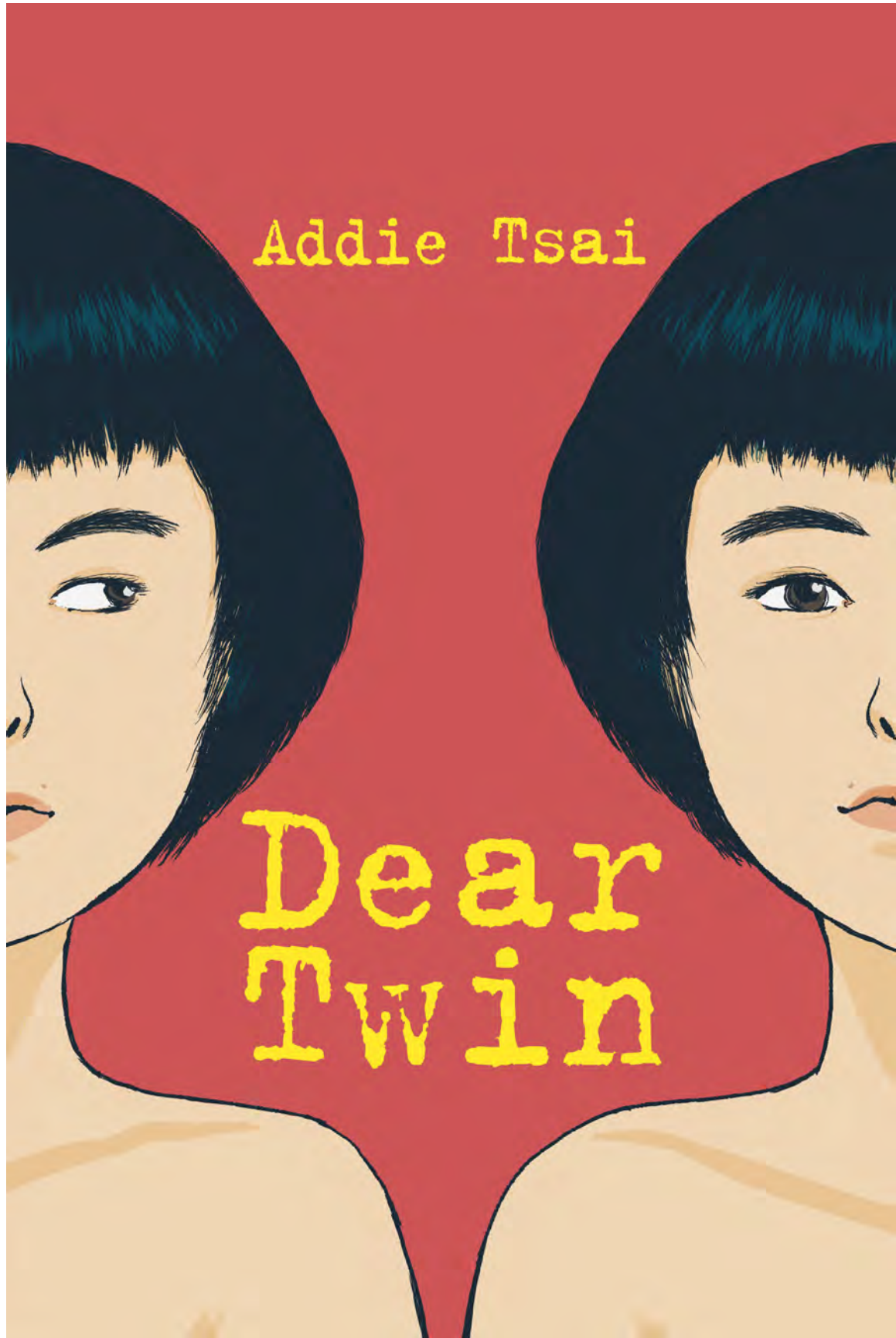


One thing I was secretly glad about was my double chin disappearing. I could see angles on my face. My so-called family cheekbones. I took a lot of selfies. But the glimmer of being pretty was so fleeting that chasing it preoccupied a lot of my time.



I was rarely content with how these selfies turned out. There was just always one more thing missing, or wrong. After a selfie session, I often felt exhausted, hungry and obsessed.







From the author of *Confessions of a Teenage Drag King*,  
a CBC books best YA title of 2020

Adrian's best friend and his boyfriend don't  
get along. Oh, and his boyfriend is a ghost.

Adrian Yates expected his summer would involve sharing Slurpees with his best friend Zoomer and pretending not to hear his dads' whispered fighting. And that's exactly how it was going, until the night Sorel appeared in the graveyard by Adrian's apartment. Adrian and Sorel meet in secret and the pair begin to experiment with consensual possession. Despite the warning signs, Adrian is certain he has everything under control—until suddenly he finds himself fighting for his life.



Great galloping ghostbusters! Trans YA author extraordinaire Markus Harwood-Jones has given us all an incredible gift in *The Haunting of Adrian Yates*. Brimming with enough steamy drama and wry humor to entertain any soap-opera fan, Harwood-Jones' sharp storytelling and poetic prose also deliver several moments of true pathos that will haunt readers long after they close the covers. Phantasmagoric hijinks notwithstanding, the trio of central characters in this story spring to life from the page as they navigate the twists and turns of desire, depression, consent, and codependence while steadfastly refusing such binary categories as "hero" and "villain." Fans of smart romance, psychological horror fiends, and witchy queers will all fall in love with *The Haunting of Adrian Yates*—this is the book we have been waiting for.

— *KAI CHENG THOM*

Markus Harwood-Jones' *The Haunting of Adrian Yates* is like your high school best friend: heartfelt, funny, and a little strange. A wild story about life beyond death, friends against lovers, and the power of names, you'll want to tramp through cemeteries late into the night with these characters long after you turn the last page.

— *MORGAN M PAGE*

  
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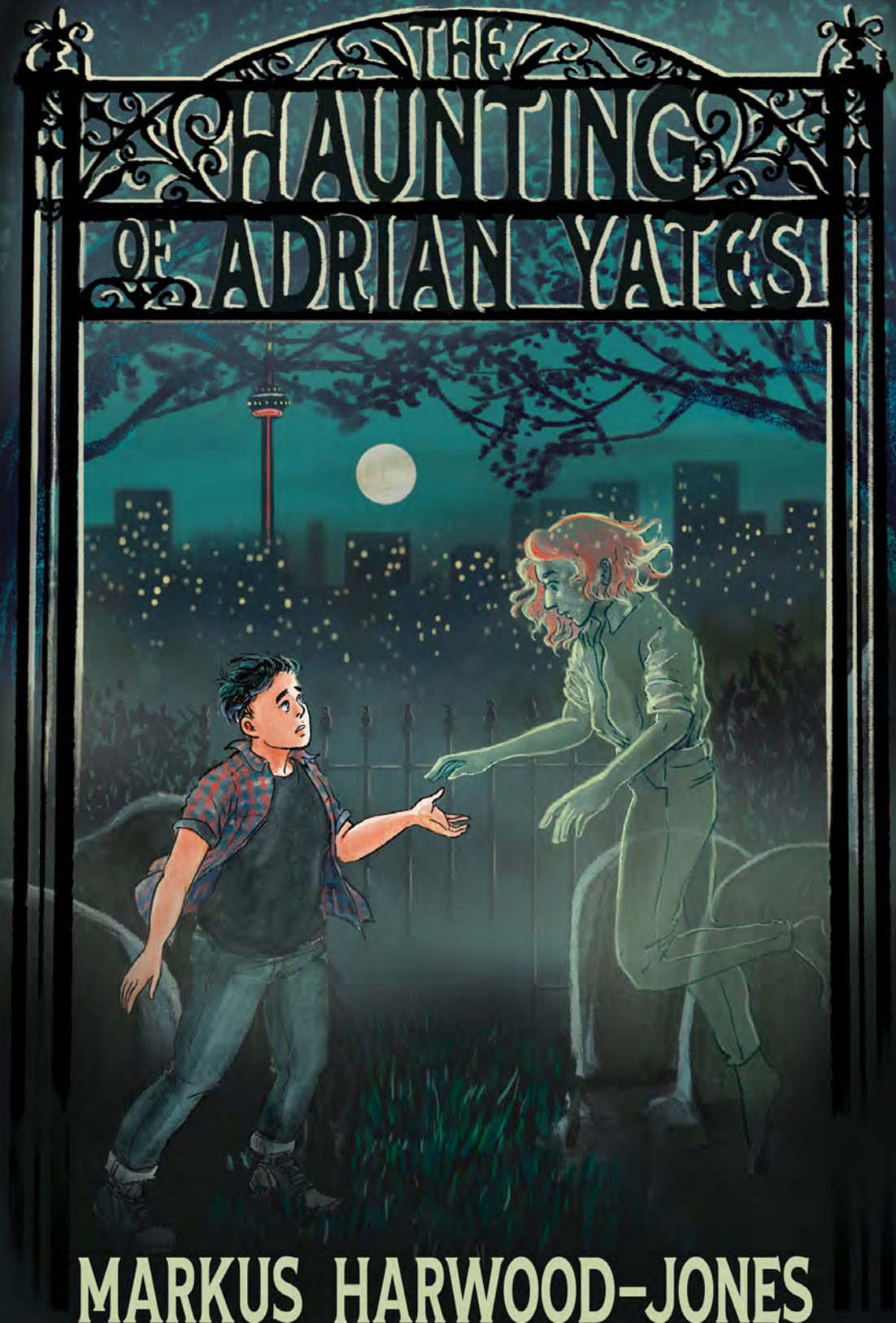
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THE HAUNTING OF ADRIAN YATES



HARWOOD-JONES





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Keet  
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# contact

EMAIL  
WWW  
INSTAGRAM

STUDIO@MAKESHIFTLOVE.COM  
MAKESHIFTLOVE.COM  
@MAKESHIFTLOVE