

My Super Cool
Interdimensional Romance
Novel

SydneyA.



Warped History

This work explores alternate dimensions and universes, dystopian societies, and hallucinogens. I am interested in how we perceive reality, and the way in which different realities extend from our own.

I am particularly fascinated by several theories that commonly appear within science fiction writing, including the notion of the Cold Spot. The Cold Spot describes the area in which two universes once collided; it is the overlapping space in which all matter was erased. In parallel to these theories, I am also intrigued by the contrast between dystopian vs. utopian societies. Lastly, I looked into the misunderstood effects and interpretations found in drug studies. From these topics, I wrote a short story, creating an imaginary world in which order and equality is based upon the benefits an individual provides to society. This world can be seen as a parallel to our own.

With these topics in mind, and in reflection of my written work, I painted three oil paintings, each to represent a different universe. They are recreations of famous paintings, the first is a post-apocalyptic interpretation of Michelangelo's *Pieta* sculpture in Vienna, the second is a dystopian version of a Degas dancer on stage, and the last painting is a psychedelic version of Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus* as seen through the eyes of someone on drugs.

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New York

Chapter 1.

“Aw fuck man, that looks sick,” Thane said staring at the black tree coating the left side of her face, branches crossing over her startling green eyes. Using the sleeve of her sweater, she wiped away the bloody ink that was dripping from the cuts. When Thane had gotten the two tattoos on her collarbone, they had been done by a doctor to show the two factions she was born to. On the right was a triangle to represent her American father and on the left, she had a circle from her Chinese mother. Unlike those, the new tattoo would most likely get infected from the self-made pigment she stole from the supply closet, and most likely scab over.

“I gotta go, but I’ll bring you the roots tom, thanks, Mod. I owe ya.” She brushed back her wavy black hair that sat just above her shoulders and knotted it into a loose bun. Thane then hit the button, and the rusty metal doors slid open, fluorescent lights flickered on when they sensed movement. Two left turns and one right lead to the spacious room filled with black market traders and a few crooked guards. Above her head was an open window, revealing the destroyed planet left behind.

The Craft is composed of two orbs connected by a set of tubes. Before the apocalypse, the bulk of humanity was sent to space and separated into two groups, the first being Chinese and the other, American. At first they two countries were separate yet after about ninety years they decided to combine forces and help each other survive. In the year 2207, the government built the rods connecting as passages to either side. It's been one hundred and forty years since humanity left the planet.

Today was Thane’s eighteenth birthday. Her father had given her a new pair of boots because her old ones had holes worn through the toes. Her new shoes had laces all the way up her calves and two metal straps on the heel and knee. When she ran through the crowd, they squeaked and clicked against the iron floors. Thane headed to her mom's to have her birthday dinner which her mom surprised her with every year, making it not so much of a surprise, before spending the night in her friend's room. To be honest, the only thing she wanted was to see her mom’s face when she saw the oak tree covering her eye. It was based on a photo she found in the library when she was studying for her finals.

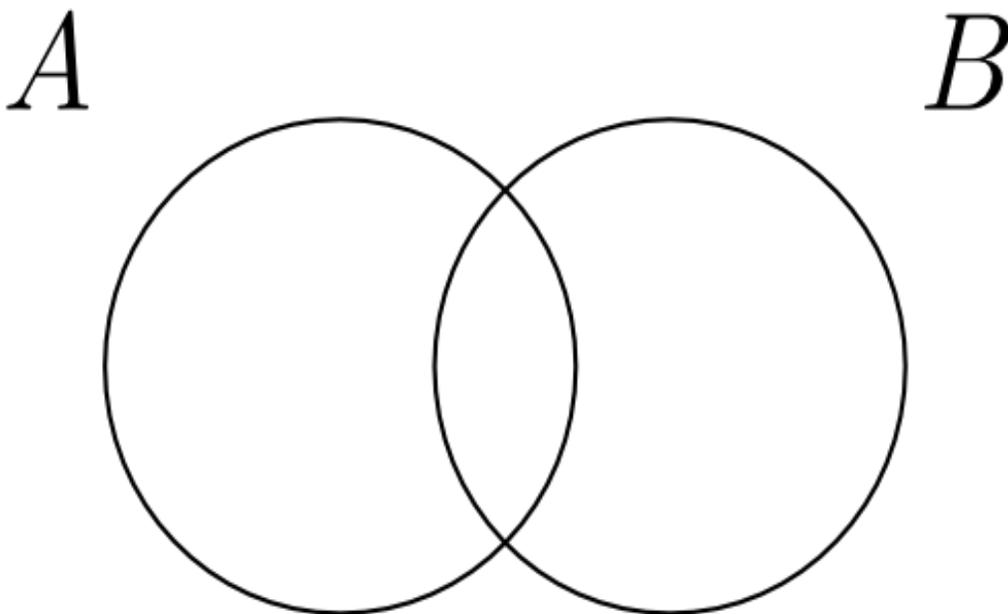
After the fifteen minute walk and ten-minute wait in line, she was able to get to a tube to take her from one orb to another. She swiped her ID, which was like a passport that wrapped around her wrist with a screen projecting her personal code, on the scanner and the pressure seal opened. The lack of gravity lifted Thane off the ground. Some dust floated off the seal which made her sneeze and gets some ink into her eye which caused her to miss one of the bars used to pull her through the tube. When her hand slipped, she hit the metal part of her boot on the side of a wall causing a bit of a jolt. About halfway through she heard a small hiss. Before she could turn back The red LEDs on her ID began to flash.

“Pressure rising, please evacuate. Pressure rising, Please Eva-” A huge hole ripped into the passage causing the metal wall to come down sealing off the right orb. The pressure bounced to the other end and began to tear more and more holes which made another wall drop, sealing off the left. Thane tried to kick down one of the metal sides by swinging her foot against it while holding one of the metal bars. The section thrust out of its socket and shot out, hitting Thames head against the edge, knocking her out. The cylinder spiraled out into space into a flaming ball that shot down to the earth.

Chapter 2.

Thane lay in a pile of metal that had shattered around her. The sky was flaming black and had white flecks that had lifted off the burning carcass left of her tube. She had landed in what looked like it used to be the Hudson River surrounding new york. She had seen this in the old photo section of the library. Before the war new york was the center of the word. Buildings that touched the clouds and people dressed in more colors she had ever seen on the craft. It was now just dust covered in the trash the humans had dumped. The statue of liberty was naked without her copper skin, only the metal structure she was built. The city was coated in a black smog hiding whatever was left behind. A creature that must have evolved from a rat, now pointy and crusted from radiation picked at an old water bottle eating the plastic. Where she lay was not the city that lived in postcards and songs; this was closer to hell.

A horn wailed, waking Thane. Her eyebrow was sliced open revealing her bone causing a massive flow of blood to cover her eye. Blindly she pats around to find something to wipe it yet resorted in ripping off some fabric of her bra, the only thing not covered in ash. Another horn jumped from what seemed to be inside of a lake of oil that had pooled from an exploded gas station. The air around it was thick from a green fog and smelled of the fuel they used on the craft. Men in black armor and masks rose from the pool in rows of five. They began to spread out and collect stray Items and put them in the spears that floated behind their heads. One of the men started to stray towards the abandoned car thane had crawled over to. She held her breath in attempts to make as little a sound as possible. This person seemed to be doing something different though. They pulled out a silver cloth from their latex suit and got on their knees. They looked as if they were digging under an old office chair though it was hard to tell from where she sat. They then scooped up a pile of purple sand and placed it into the fabric and ducked it back into their suit. After about twenty minutes the group retreated to the place in which they came.



An overlap in two collided universes creating a passage two crossover

Once she was sure, the coast was clear Thane ran over to observe the pool. From what Thane saw it was just a swamp of radiation. Still shivering from her loss of blood she squatted down next to an old battery. She tossed the battery into the pool to see what would happen. It didn't sizzle or even make a sound when it hit the oil. 'Fuck it.' She stepped in. A sharp pull yanked her body into the pool opening her to what only could describe as the inside of a Venn diagram. She saw what she knew as space, and she saw it repeated. Just at this one spot the two forever's overlapped ripping open the ends creating an area of two forever's. She had passed into another dimension.

'A vision of Heavenly secrets that can make sense of earthly realities'

Chapter 3

When Thane stepped forward into the new, she gasped out into something both foreign and familiar. Rows of Identical structures lined outward from where the statue of liberty was yet instead was a statue of a man reaching his arms out pointing towards a city of black reflective buildings shaped like pyramids. A Ship, the size of a fifty-foot building, created a dark shadow that somehow made Thane feel watched. Everything told her this without even saying anything. She couldn't separate her reality from whatever the reality now existing. Her mind felt as if it were tearing apart in so many ways. Her head spin causing her to arch of her and she began to feel ill. A dark figure approached her.

"Is she up? I think she's waking up." A voice whispered in Thane. She was now in an alley surrounded by a group of people in the same latex suits she saw earlier soon without the gas masks. Thane recognized the one who was collecting the purple powder. Now having a closer look she was able to see it was a girl. She had hazel eyes and white hair that she wore down with two silver clips on each side. Her skin was different from the others in the group. It was a silvery blue hint and might have shimmered when she moved. When she talked, it looked as if she was speaking in a different language yet somehow Thane understood. When she thought about it, it sounded as if they all were talking in tongues.

"Hey, you gonna talk or just stare at us all day?" A boy with periwinkle hair said.

"Hey give her a minute. it was probably her first time jumping," the white-haired girl said. Thane tried to lift herself, but the dizziness returned.

"Yea that takes some getting used to." The girl said, "Let's start with your name, the dick's name is P-41, this is S-52, and I'm A-V."

"Thane"

"Thane, Ha that's a weird one. Anyways what are you doing here?"

"To be honest, I'm not even sure where here is."

Looking around Thane realized she recognized nothing from where she first ended up. It seemed as if she was between two of the outer city houses hidden from sunlight.

"Uh, how do I put it... You somehow got to old earth, and you did what we call 'jumping' which is crossing to a different dimension through a wormhole made when our universe and yours collided. There's a few of them, one of them humans discovered back in 2013 I think which they called the "cold spot" but they wrote it off and never looked further into it." A-V explained.

"Wait, so why do you guys come to earth, it's just a bunch of toxic crap?"

"Well, that toxic crap makes up about fifteen percent of our population. You see how my skins different from theirs and yours?"

“Yea I noticed.”

“Well, we make artificial O-Positive blood so that everyone can share blood if there was any disaster. The cool thing is, Cause I’m pumped full of this beautiful radiation I can jump without being affected by the toxins on earth.

Thane rubbed her head trying to find a way to understand. ‘Wait so you go to get stuff to make blood? Is that like your job or something?’

“Ok so I’m one of the walkers. We go and collect materials that can be recycled here and turned into something usable like this here gun.” she said pointing up her hand which she squeezed, extending a metal gun from her suit. “And some of us dirty walkers go off location and collect this thing we call burnt Iris which is this toxic ash that turned purple from the overload of radiation.” She said gesturing to the dust she had earlier collected. “The government used it for assisted suicide, but they keep their stash for only people who are gonna be dead right after and to the rest of us it’s just labeled in the illegals.”

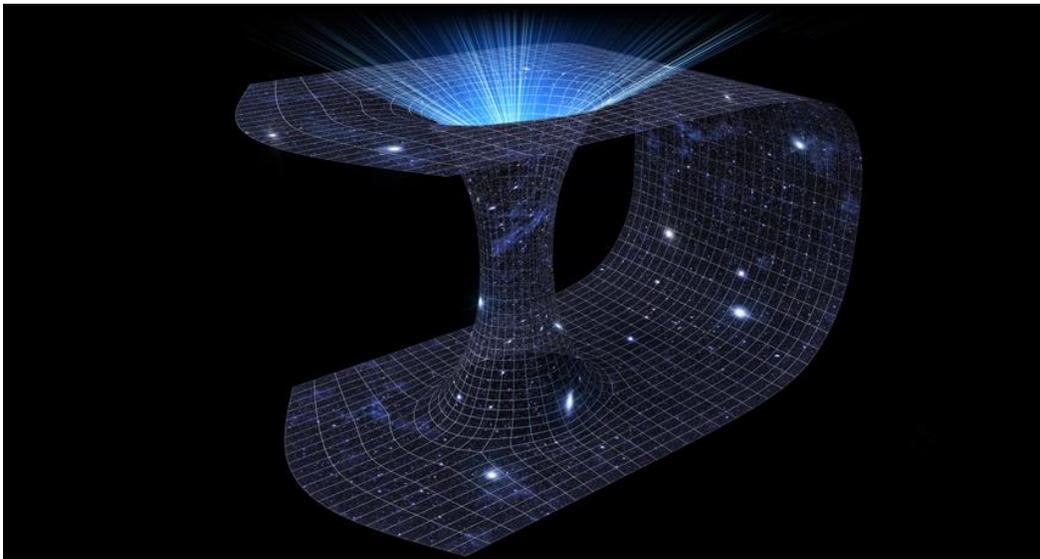
“Wait so is it a drug?” Thane asked, slipping in a smile.

“I think we can spare a little to show you.” A-V winked before any of her friends looked over.

She put a pinch of the dust under her nail and snorts it. She handed some to Thane.

“Breath” A-V Said.

Thane snorted the dust.



Escape into a parallel dimension by the use of drugs to move consciousness

Chapter 4.

The world bubbled. Colors extended and plants grew from metal windows the sun swirled in spots, a butterfly flew over the sky leaving a rainbow trail. “Avy?” A-V spun around with a purple orb as if she was half in this world and half in the parallel version of it.

“Welcome to burnt Iris; It lets you jump into a parallel dimension with only your mind. See this world is happening simultaneously with ours, we just can’t travel between them normally. It’s kind of like holding up two sheets of paper and poking a hole in the middle. You can die in our world but you in this world can still do whatever it does, we just changed our consciousness for the duration of the high. Your body back home is left like a sack of potatoes

kinda doing nothing. This is gonna wear off in a few minutes because you only took one hit.” A-V said.

“Wow, this is crazy.”

“I know right. It's kinda like what you'd think an orgasm look like, and that's why It sells for the big bucks.”

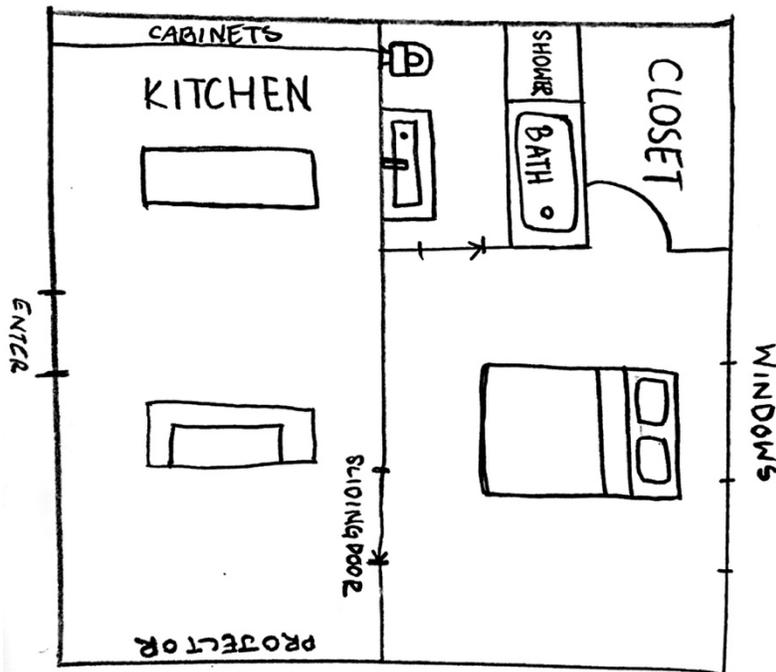
“I can see how someone gets addicted to this.”

The green sky flickered changing into a deep purple, bringing out the colorful hints in A-Vs eyes. She stepped in closer. Her breath felt cold compared to the warm air tingling around Thane. A-Vs hair turned into long wisps of stars and planets that reminded her of home. Was she tripping or had her consciousness really slipped into a parallel universe? This was different from the last time she traveled. This seemed to be the city she was in before yet morphed, rather than just a complete alternate reality. It hadn't even been a full day and Thane already felt as if she had been lost for years. Till now.

Chapter 5.

When the drug wore off, it was nighttime. A-V brought Thane into her house. Since she was eighteen, she had moved out of the house she was raised and into her one bedroom accommodation until she found a man to live with. Her house was composed of three rooms. The first place you entered it was a rectangle, half kitchen, and half bedroom. There was a small grey couch facing a giant screen projecting images of trees and ice blue waters. The ceiling which

A-V'S HOUSE BLUE PRINT



what one large dimmed light that changed slightly in tint when you moved from the kitchen space to living area lit the room. The kitchen walls were white with projected dots that when you clicked them they would open a section in the wall revealing stray snacks and a set of bowls. The door on the opposite side from the entrance lead into a room the same blue in her skin, with a bed built into the floor and a wall that converted to windows when you pressed a small button on the wall. The last place with the typical bathroom amenities yet all in such similar white it would be difficult to distinguish each item. The whole house came together into a silky black cube.

At precisely 8:00 pm an announcement projected onto speakers scatter through the

apartment. "Citizens of city S-040401. Today 358 civilians were lost, and 361 children were born. We thank N-E7, J-T4, and A-ML for surrendering their lives when randomly selected to even out an entire 400,000 population. We expect you all to follow through with your jobs and uphold the standards we ask of you such as wearing your uniforms, staying in your units of class sections, and always wear your ID. Reminder, in two days we will have a city extensive health check. Thank you for your time and cooperation. Homes will be locking at ten tonight in a result of weather changes."

A-V rolled her eyes and began pressing buttons somehow ending up with two bowls of a strange tan slop. "You're not expecting me to eat that are you?" Thane said staring at what seemed to be her dinner. "I don't mean to be rude I just can't tell if this is dinner or some strange concoction to put on my skin." She said trying to laugh off her spirit of rudeness.

"It tastes better than it looks, I'm just programmed to have an extra carb, protein diet because of my job settings." A-V gestured from Thane to try some.

Thane could only think of what she would have been eating at home for her birthday dinner. Somehow the dehydrated spaghetti and canned fruit sounded like a five-star meal. The goop she now ate was slightly grimy and held together by a rubbery substance that tasted of rotten wheat. Even the water she had tasted off. A-V claimed it was because of the electrolytes yet Thane was convinced it was a lack of effort put into cleaning whatever plumbing system this upside down world had.

After they ate, A-V handed Thane a pair of grey pajama shorts and a white tank top. She had set up the couch with sheets and a silk blanket that flopped over the side because of its overwhelming size. A-V jumped on top of the poof and wrapped herself in a burrito. Thane awkwardly sat down next to her. Her lanky, long legs crushed by the unusually short height of the chair. A-V grabbed one leg and threw it on top of hers. "Come on make yourself at home, I feel like at this point I can almost call you my friend," A-V said blushing. She turned on the screen and projected a television menu. Thane began to crack up at what A-V had chosen. Somehow through millions of possible dimensions and time frames, played the century-old show. "This a classic I must agree." Thane jokes. "I don't know what you're judging me for Tom and Jerry never gets old, It's the perfect combination of a friendship of wits and stupidity." A-V said punching Thane in the arm. She then leaned over and closed her eyes. All Thane could think was 'How could everything I know be gone, yet still find myself so blindly happy with a complete stranger.'

Chapter 6.

Thane woke up knotted in her blanket, and A-V was gone. She had left a note projected on the kitchen counter reading, 'I left breakfast out, and I'll be home at four for the health check.' The clock on the table projected the time, 12:48. Breakfast was the same as dinner the night before, yet half the amount of last time. After eating she grabbed a spare jacket and ran outside. The city looked a lot different in the sun. When the sun hit the towering black buildings, they reflected off of each other making it seem as if there were a thousand times more of them. The pyramid shape caused them to look similar to thorns sticking straight from the ground. The streets were completely empty as if were a ghost town. Metal machines drove down the street picking up garbage and anything which would keep the city from looking symmetrical.

After walking around for two hours, Thane had gotten utterly lost. She had no way of finding her way back to A-V's home except for the small black print over each identical building. She noticed a pattern in which the cleaning vehicles traveled. Each traveled on a grid and when a

section from one street to the next was completed the color of the screen on the corner building would change from red to green. By walking back from the one she had been walking parallel to she would be able to find what street she had begun on considering the machine had started in front of A-V's home. By the time she saw the line of homes she had to choose from it was already about 3:30. By process of elimination, she was able to figure out the correct house.

When A-V returned, it was time for the health check. On each corner, there was a line around the block waiting for their check-ups. There was a glass cube the size of a telephone booth with a screen projecting a doctor. When they checked in, they were going under the name of A-V's brother who was out of town, they were instructed to stick their arm in a small cylinder that scanned over checking for significant data. When Thane checked in, the room became a neon crimson. "High radiation, unknown virus, unable to read, blood type O- send to center immediately." Two men in black trench coats grabbed her shoulders and dragged her out of the booth into a white pod that shot up and over the city. Men in the same skins took A-V to a silver tent for further inspection and questioning.

From the pod, Thane was able to see that the city was on an island in the center of a vast body of water surrounded by more land. Vehicles similar to the one she was in, floated around like bugs. She was taken to a building in the middle of the city and sent to a room surrounded by glass walls and doctors in white lab coats. A green glass floated in through small holes in the wall.

When Thane opened her eyes, she was lying flat on a table with needles sticking out of her arms and chest that connected to skin tubes leading into clear bags filled with fluids of different colors. Men in white masks hovered over her face.

"One-quart isoden, two-fifths madrin, and a bag of asotate." One of them said. The needle connected to her heart's fluid changed from clear to the silvery blue that was pumping through A-V. When it began to enter Thane's bloodstream, a fire started to rip throughout her body. It felt as if her muscle was becoming rock. Black tears fell down her cheeks. Her body became so unbearable that Thane began to scream and tear her body from the tubes. Once she had a hand free, she started to try and rip off her leather straps binding her to the table. She passed out from the pain.

Thane woke up in a room with nothing but the chair which she sat on. The floor dusted with burnt iris. Thane remembered what this meant. She was going to die.
Year 3055, May 4 an announcement rang over the city.

"Burnt Iris has become a nationwide epidemic. Young teens are taking the drug and believe they can survive in more than one dimension at once. Their bodies are falling off buildings and their blood has been infecting the streets and the people who drink the water surrounding. Burnt Iris cannot take you through dimensions; It can not give you a second life to live in when you escape this one. Do not take this drug; it is not just lethal but toxic and immensely contagious. This will be the second apocalypse."