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Gospel





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TARTARUS^{MAGAZINE}

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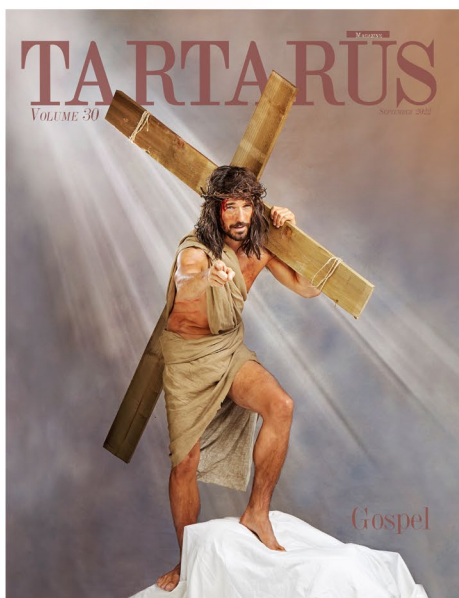
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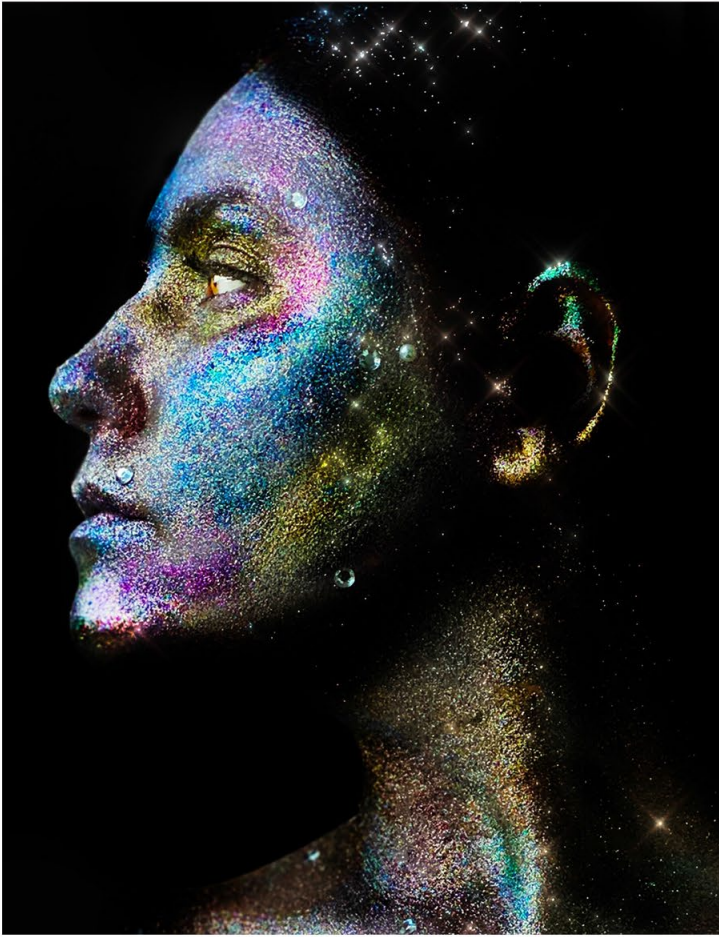
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Cover
Jesus is my Homeboy
Photographed by
KATE RANSOME

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Nora Kobrenik Photographed by Nora Kobrenik |
Goddess of All Creation | August 2022

I've always found Catholicism very intriguing and fascinating. I've grown up in a world devoid of religion or church, in fact I think the first time I've gone to church I was in my early 20's. USSR took Karl Marx's words "Religion is the opium of the people. It is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of our soulless conditions." quiet literally and dismantled and burned down majority of churches in the realm. And as we all know the forbidden fruit is always sweeter, thus began my infatuation with the Catholic Church. I'm not religious in any way, nor do I believe in the teachings of the Bible because as all of the well-educated people I understand that it was written by mere mortals thus making it nothing but fiction. My fascination is with this fantastical tale and mythology of it, the good and the evil, the past and the future, heaven and hell. When someone asks me what do I believe in I say everything because on one hand I believe in science, evolution, astronomy, etc. But on the other hand I do believe that there's another world out there, a world beyond the

veil. I've read countless texts on variety of subjects and imagined different scenarios and outcomes. It's funny but I've never imagined heaven or God because that's such a boring, righteous topic. I imagine the "good place" as a perfect Stepford Wives world where boring people lead boring lives where nothing is ever questioned and no one ever does anything worth remembering. Now Hell on the other hand seems like a much more interesting dwelling. I imagine it as a place where great minds have tough conversation and debate polarizing ideas.

Volume 30 explores the idea of gospels in visual terms. Catholic art has played a leading role in the history and development of Western art since at least the 4th century. The principal subject matter of Catholic art has been the life and times of Jesus Christ, along with people associated with him, including his disciples, the saints, and motifs from the Catholic Bible and that's exactly what you will witness on the upcoming pages. I hope you're prepared for what's to come and are not afraid of a little blasphemy.

Welcome to the issue.

NORA KOBRENIK

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND FOUNDER

ANNA FORA

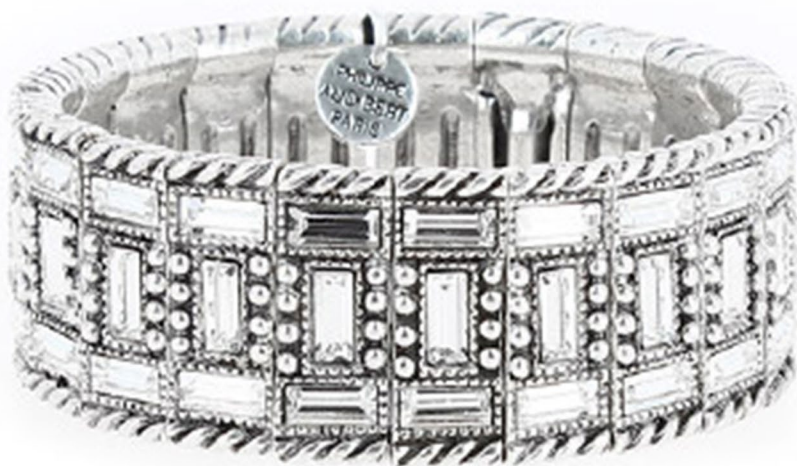


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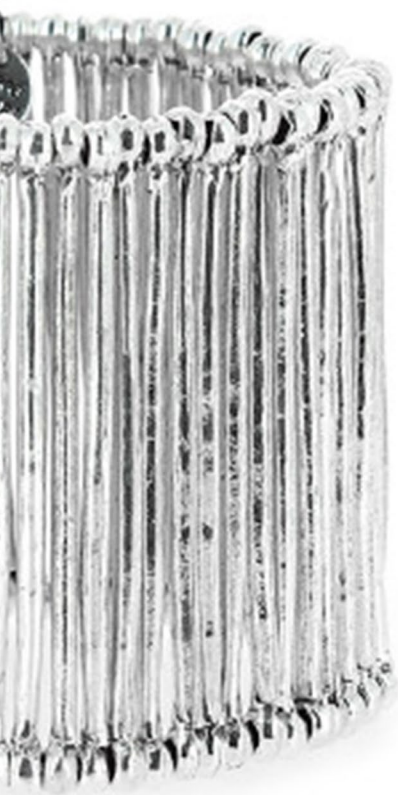




PHILIPPE
PARIS



AUDIBERT
PARIS





KING WITH NO CROWN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
HECTOR JARKORIN







MAKE UP: BY MARIA GOMEZ
MODEL: ALAN BARRON





EZO RENIER'S
EXODUS
NORA KOBRENIK ON LOVE AND LOSS











They say it's better to have loved and lost to never have loved at all. But is that really true? I read countless books, stories, biographies, saw a million films, documentaries, plays, etc. And in each one two people spend years finding each other, falling into agony with each other, rewriting histories and bringing down kingdoms for each other and then one of them dies. It's final. There's nothing but an endless void that is left open like a wound that's never to heal. Yes, those two people may have chosen in moments past to go their separate ways, to seek something else but always carrying that love and chaos for each other in them and knowing that the bond is unbreakable. Knowing that eventually they will find their way back to each other and that blending of heaven and hell on earth that only they can give to one another. But then the lifeline snaps. One of them dies, leaves the other for one last time. What happens then? Then you are left with nothing but your pain. Unending fire that burns and slowly consumes you. Grief is a terrible beast that gnaws at you until your last breath. They say time heals all wounds but that of course isn't so. When you lose someone that was essentially a part of you you never recover. You never find peace again. You only try to learn how to continue living without that person. And you fail every day. Yes, you may meet someone else, be

with someone else, might even feel the echo of that bond but it's an imitation. You will go on, living, maybe even loving but it won't be "it". In the darkest night, at the quietest moment, in your solitude when you least expect it it'll strike you like a bolt of lightning. You'll want to howl and tear yourself to pieces just to get some respite from the agony of having loved and lost. So I ask you again: is love worth it? Before you answer yes or no I want you to understand that I'm not talking about the "puppy love" type of love, or complacent type of love, the "comfortable", the "settling" type of love. I'm talking about the all consuming, can't live without each other, volatile, uncomfortable, chaotic type of love. The love that is written in the stars, the other half of yourself that you didn't even know was missing. A soul that you've spend a millennia searching for.

Now imagine you are able to see the future, you know the end game. You know that you will lose that person when you meet them, are you willing to suffer for an eternity in exchange for a decade of bliss? What do you say: yes or no? ●













THE SEVENTH
PHOTOGRAPHED BY AN
ME



H SEAL
NGEL DE JESUS
EJIA RAMIREZ














A woman with dark, slightly messy hair and red lipstick is looking down at a cluster of lit candles. She is holding a lit cigarette in her right hand. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the flames of the candles, which cast a warm, orange glow. The background is dark and indistinct.

INRI

PHOTOGRAPHY
BY KRISTINA BAHGINA
THE POWER OF FASHION
BY JEN RUANE







Today, we see a multitude of sartorial power symbols, from "power suits" to "power heels." But what makes a garment "powerful"? According to sociologist and political theorist Steven Lukes: "We speak and write about power, in innumerable situations, and we usually know, or think we know, perfectly well what we mean ... And yet, among those who have reflected on the matter, there is no agreement about how to define it, how to conceive it, how to study it, and, if it can be measured, how to measure it."

Fashion has always been an important part of how people define themselves and others. As such it can be a powerful tool of influence. This can be direct: studies show we are more likely to trust and even obey orders from people dressed in suits or uniforms. Fashion's influence can also be indirect and constitute a form of soft power. From Wellington's boots to Gandhi's shawl and Mao's 'Mao-suit'; from Elizabeth I's ruffs to Diana's dresses to Thatcher's handbags, famous individuals become associated with certain clothes, which they often consciously use to project an image of themselves or their country. Dior's 'New Look' spread the idea of modern French chic to millions. Armani re-enforced the image of

Italy as a center of style. American jeans are worn on every continent. They have even been claimed to have played a significant part in the end of the Cold War, as part of the soft power of Western consumerism over those living in the drab Soviet Union. Arguably this has always been true. The suit jacket began its life when Charles II literally dictated a new fashion for them as part of a calculated strategy to undermine French influence on Britain. The colors of Modern suits owe much to the Regency dandy, Beau Brummell, whose subtle sense of style influenced King George IV and high fashion. Fashions may change, but fashion has always and will always be with us. As long as people wear clothes and accessories, they will consciously or unconsciously influence each other by the way they dress. The connection between fashion and soft power will therefore remain intrinsic and enduring. And fashion will continue to project influence as well as benefiting global economy. ●













PR FOR DE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY

THE VIL

ALESSANDRO PACI

















MAKE UP BY CECILIA OLMEDI
STYLED BY AMELIA MIHALCA
MODEL: SOFIA VARDANEGA

Jesus is my Homeboy
Photography by Kate Ransome
Gabriella Foreman questions
the goodness of Lucifer





















He's not the enemy of God, his name really isn't Lucifer and he isn't even evil. And as far as leading Adam and Eve astray, that was a bad rap stemming from a case of mistaken identity. "There's little or no evidence in the Bible for most of the characteristics and deeds commonly attributed to Satan," insists Henry Ansgar Kelly, a UCLA professor with four decades in what he describes as "the devil business." He puts forth the most comprehensive case ever made for sympathy for the devil, arguing that the Bible actually provides a kinder, gentler version of the infamous antagonist than typically thought. According to Christianity, Satan is the epitome and embodiment of all evil things, described as "the father of all lies" in the Catholic Church's Catechism. It is his works that tempt humans into doing bad deeds. If something evil occurs, we can be assured that Satan had something to do with it. According to Catholicism, Satan only exists because God allows him to. This raises some serious issues about how righteous God can be if he allows evil to exist, but I digress. Satan, as the story goes, began as the angel Lucifer, who outrightly rejected God and rebelled against him. God cast Lucifer and those who followed him into Hell, a place of eternal torture and despair, where God was not present.

Like any good propaganda machine, Christian authorities have made sure to limit the dissemination of information on the enemy (Satan) to what they want the public to know. For example, we are never told why Satan rebelled against God. The only evidence we have to conclude Satan's utter evil is God's word, and frankly, God's word isn't worth too much. He's shown a remarkable inconsistency in his actions and words, and he's hardly above lying or dishonest conduct. We're never been given Lucifer's side of the story. Were Satan's reasons for rejecting God and attempting to overthrow him legitimate? From where I'm standing, they could certainly be considered valid if the authorities see fit to hide them from the general public. After giving Moses the Ten Commandments, God orchestrated a litany of atrocities through isolated commandments that are simply too great in number to list here. God lies to prophets. Why should anyone take his word at face value if he has no problem with lying to us for no reason other than to have an excuse to condemn us to Hell? Who's more evil? God or Satan?





H

ow can we determine this?

Well, it's a simple matter of looking at the actions of both God and Satan. Who's committed more evil acts? Who's done more harm to humanity? Who's been the most oppressive? Is Satan really as bad as the Christian Smear Campaign makes him out to be? Let's find out, shall we?

God takes away Adam and Eve's eternal life, thus committing the first murder, and holds their descendants responsible and visiting Adam and Eve's punishment down on their children. In today's moral standards, the sins of the father die with the father. God destroys all life on Earth in a great flood, except for a drunk (Noah) and his family, for failing to worship him. God's tenth plague upon the Israelites was the unjustified murder of all firstborn sons in Egypt, which undoubtedly included little children. Before sending the plagues to Egypt, God "hardened Pharaoh's heart" so that he wouldn't let the Israelites go, so he could have an excuse to visit horrible plagues upon them, like boils, killing cattle and murdering all firstborn sons. (Exodus 4:21) God orders the Levites to kill their "every man and his neighbor" for worshipping another god. This cost 3000 lives. (Exodus 32:27) God sends a plague to the Israelites, apparently feeling that mass-butchery wasn't

enough of a punishment. (Exodus 32:35) God kills Onan for refusing to impregnate his late brother's (whom God also slew) wife and instead "spilling his seed on the ground." (Genesis 38:8-10) God kills the entire populations of Sodom and Gammorah (again, including women, children and infants) for practicing certain sexual techniques. God gives all Philistines hemorrhoids in their pubic areas. (1 Samuel 5:9) God kills over 50,000 people for looking at an ark. (1 Samuel 6:19) God kills 70,000 people because King David decided to have a census. (1 Chronicles 21:7-14) God makes sure that if you are guilty of even the smallest transgression, you shall suffer endlessly for all eternity, following a dramatic homecoming for Jesus, who will be extremely pissed off at everyone for putting him to death, even though it was just the Romans and even though he knew what was going to happen beforehand, and he could have easily avoided it by using his power as God to perform a miracle and prove who he was. (See the entire book of Revelation) Satan, like Prometheus, gave

gave knowledge to humanity by giving Eve the fruit from the forbidden tree. Because of Satan, humanity gained knowledge of good and evil, according to Genesis. Since we couldn't have possessed knowledge of good and evil before eating the fruit, Adam and Eve couldn't have known that eating the fruit was evil, so it seems a little harsh to punish them as severely as God did. Satan gave humans true capacity for moral judgment, unlike God, who simply expected everyone to mindlessly obey his orders. There is no biblical record of Satan engaging in the murder or torture of any human being, unlike God, who is guilty (and proudly guilty) of committing genocide. There is no biblical record of Satan ever ordering someone to kill someone else, unlike God, who has repeatedly

demanded the deaths of those who commit even the smallest of offenses. Satan will not be holding a massively dramatic ceremony full of blood and death for the return of his son to Earth. God apparently will. It's time to stop this needless slander-ing of Satan's name. Satan has done nothing to deserve it. He hasn't killed anyone, publicly exonerated slavery, demanded our worship or threatened us with eternal damnation for not doing his bidding. It is God who is guilty of all these crimes. Satan's done nothing but rebel against a repug-nantly unjust authority figure, and he gets eternal damnation and associa-tion and blame for all evil on Earth! ●







DOGMA



A black and white close-up photograph of a woman's face. She has dark, glossy lipstick and a nose ring. Her eyes are closed. On her forehead, there is a vertical line of dark paint or ink. On her right hand, which is raised near her face, there are several small, white, cross-shaped objects attached to her fingers and palm. The background is dark and out of focus.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESÚS CÓRDOVA

TIANA BROOKS ON WHY
THE BIBLE STILL MATTERS













Cultures change, laws change, generations come and go, but the Word of God is as relevant today as it was when it was first written. Or is it?

The Bible is not a history book, a psychology text, or a scientific journal. The Bible is the description God gave us about who He is, and His desires and plans for humanity. The most significant component of this revelation is the story of our separation from God by sin and God's provision for restoration of fellowship through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross. That being said there is a catch: Bible was written by humans like you and me and not by the hand of God as we're led to believe. Thus the Bible is about as accurate and true as say the Harry Potter series or Game of Thrones.

Little wonder then that the French philosopher Voltaire said that in a hundred years from his day the Bible would have passed into the mists of history as people became more liberated and enlightened and realized that the greatest book ever written was fiction. Today a group of people known as the Jesus Seminar tells us that huge sections of the New Testament are not genuine but were concocted by writers who weaseled their own thoughts into the canon. Others have attacked the names and dates and events and numbers in the Bible,

and proclaim that the book is riddled with errors. People who accept human evolution out of some primordial soup ridicule the very idea of creation as a throwback to an age of barbarians and illiterates. And, of course, priests and preachers will keep their jobs as long as they can continue to make you believe in the Bible. Such attacks on the reliability and relevance of the Bible can be very persuasive. Yet as far as reliability is concerned, it's only fair to note that the Bible contains the best-documented text of any volume in human history. But is the ancient book really relevant to the issues of our frenetic, post-modern world of microscopes and satellites? This is a question asked by those who are racing through life with little time for reflection on their destiny or why they are here. But for those who are unexpectedly slammed onto a hospital bed, life takes on a much different quality. Suddenly in the long, agonizing hours punctuated only by the clicking of a heart monitor, there is time to reflect on a new set of questions, timeless questions that have not changed much through the centuries. What, or who is on the other side? ●











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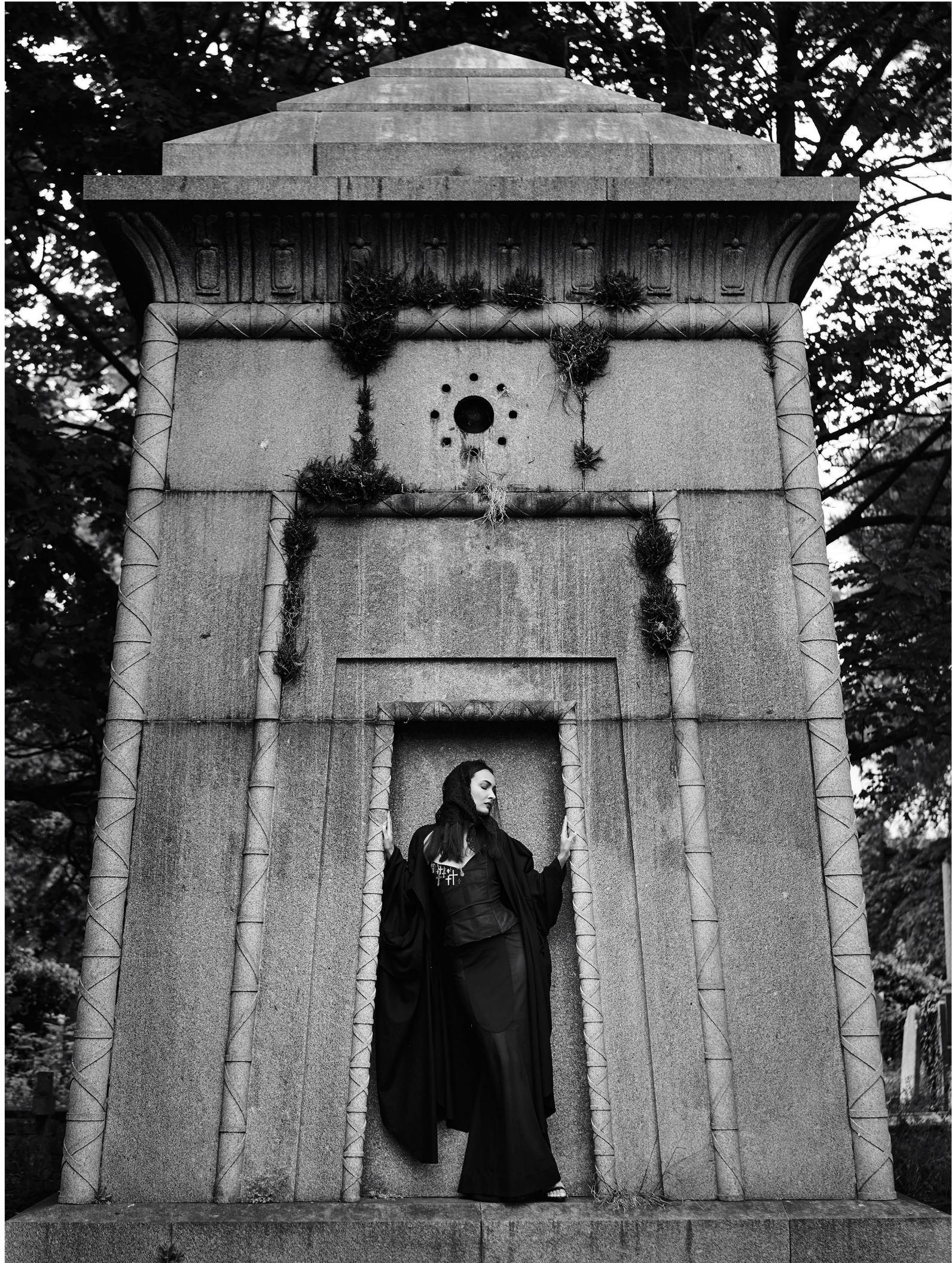


Photography by Nicolas Guérin

Left: Noemie is wearing Ikonostas'tulle Kimono,
a vintage lace corset (stylist's own), earrings by Rod Almayate

Lea wears Ikonostas lace bodysuit and suspenders girdle, silver and Swarovski
earrings (stylist's own), Ikonostas' suspenders belt

Right: Ottotagoni wool coat, corset with silver crosses, mesh mermaid skirt, all by
Ikonostas







Previous pages:

Left: Ikonostas' Long Butterfly kimono in silk georgette and tulle, boots by Ballin.

Left: Noemie is wearing Ikonostas'tulle Kimono,
a vintage lace corset (stylist's own), bracelet by Beatrice Marcora.

Lea wears Ikonostas lace bodysuit and suspenders girdle, silver and Swarovski earrings (stylist's own), Ikonostas' suspenders belt

Right: Ottottagoni wool coat, corset with silver crosses, mesh mermaid skirt, all by Ikonostas





















Following pages:

Noemie is wearing the asymmetrical Ikonostas' light mesh dress, ankle boots by Alexander McQueen (vintage), earrings Rod Almayate

Following pages:

Lea wears silk bra, high waist girdle Longuette skirt, gloves with crosses on her head, all by Ikonostas










DUNCAN WILSON











Mortal Instruments

Photography by Ezo Renier

Laurie Silvey tells the truth about Angels











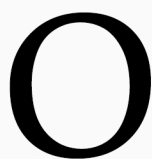












ur culture has an angel problem. People talk about angels incessantly. Angels appear in cinema and on TV shows. Angels are regular features in all manner of popular culture, both high and low brows. You hear about them sometimes in sermons. And all of this chatter is, almost without exception, contrary to the picture of angels that emerges in the Bible. There's a reason nearly every time angels appear to humans in scripture, the angel begins by saying, "Be not afraid." Aside from a thing appearing out of nowhere, their appearance is not what you might think. When people think of Angels, they mostly picture a majestic human-like winged being. Cherubs, which are a type of angel also mentioned in the Bible, have been reimagined to fit the image of Cupid — cute babies with tiny wings. According to the Bible, there are different types of angels that surround God. Maimonides, a Jewish scholar from the 12th century, ranked these beings in terms of importance in the hierarchy of Heaven. What arises is a description of four beings from that hierarchy that have been explained in detail in scripture, and the historical circumstances around their conceptualization.

The Cherubim, later shortened to Cherub, is the lowest in rank among the four. The Bible describes these beings as animal-human hybrids, tasked with guarding the Garden of Eden against humankind. In the Book of Ezekiel, the prophet's vision depicts them as having four faces: that of a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a human. They have straight legs, four wings, and bull hooves for feet that gleam like polished brass. One set of wings covers their body, and the other is used for flight. This description is far from how we imagine the Cherub now.

The term Angel comes from the Greek

word Angelos, which originated from the Hebrew word for messenger, Mal'akh. The Malakim are messengers of God and are the closest looking to us humans. They are third in rank among the four. These named angels are often the ones people think of when asked to imagine one. However, while the Malakim looked like human beings, there was no mention of them having wings in the Bible. The earliest known Christian image of an angel from the mid-third century was without wings. According to the prophet Isaiah, the Seraphim is an angelic being that surrounds the throne of God singing "holy, holy, holy" in unison to God's approach. The prophet describes them as having six wings, two of which are for flying, while they use the rest to cover their heads and feet. Seraphim are second highest in rank according to Maimonides's angelic hierarchy. The Ophanim, or "the wheels," is arguably the most bizarre being in the Bible. Ezekiel's account in the Bible describes them as beings made out of interlocking gold wheels with each wheel's exterior covered with multiple eyes. They move by floating themselves in the sky. As the highest in Maimonides's hierarchy, they are tasked with guarding God's throne.

It's interesting to take a step back and observe the conception of these beings from a secular standpoint. Centuries of culture, geography, and history have shaped what we have collectively forgotten and re-imagined as angels but we should never forget what they truly are: monstrous. ●





Absolute Interference

Photography by Bohdan Bohdanov
Martina Goulding talks conspiracies

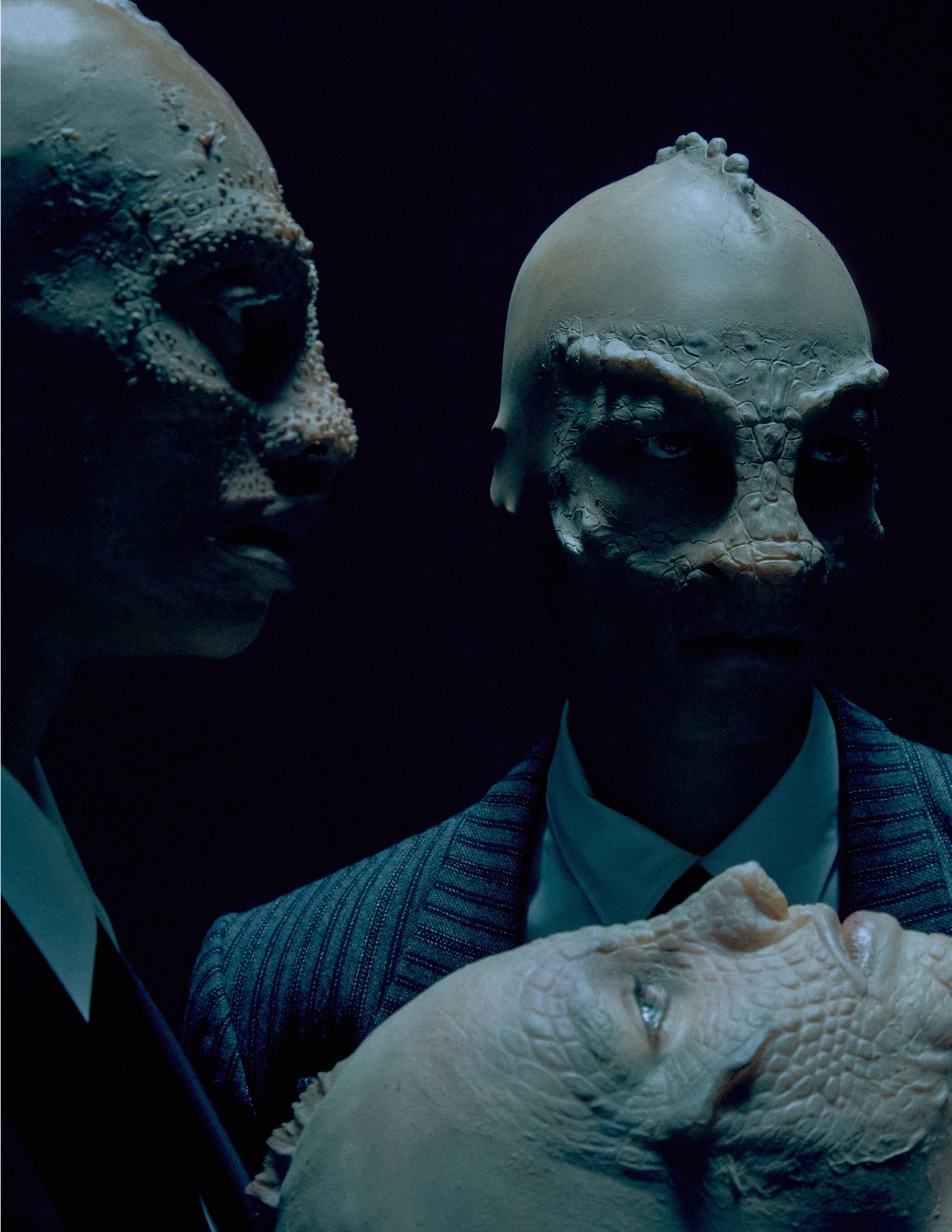
















P sychologists usually attribute belief in conspiracy theories and finding a conspiracy where there is none to a number of psychopathological conditions such as paranoia, schizotypy, narcissism, and insecure attachment, or to a form of cognitive bias called "illusory pattern perception". However, the current scientific consensus holds that most conspiracy theorists are not pathological, precisely because their beliefs ultimately rely on cognitive tendencies that are neurologically hardwired in the human species and probably have deep evolutionary origins, including natural inclinations towards anxiety and agency detection. Many conspiracy theories relate to clandestine government plans and elaborate murder plots. Conspiracy theories usually deny consensus or cannot be proven using the historical or scientific method, and are not to be confused with research concerning verified conspiracies. In principle, conspiracy theories are not always false by default and their validity depends on evidence just as in any theory. However, they are often discredited a priori due to the cumbersome and improbable nature of many of them. This is a list of conspiracy theories that are notable.

Aliens: Among the foremost concerns

of conspiracy theorists are questions of alien life; for example, allegations of government cover-ups of the supposed Roswell UFO incident or activity at Area 51. Also disseminated are theories concerning so-called 'men in black', who allegedly silence witnesses. Multiple reports of dead cattle found with absent body parts and seemingly drained of blood have emerged worldwide since at least the 1960s. This phenomenon has spawned theories variously concerning aliens and secret government or military experiments.

Illuminati: Conspiracy theories concerning the Illuminati, a short-lived 18th-century Enlightenment-era secret society, appear to have originated in the late 19th century, when some conservatives in Europe came to believe that the group had been responsible for the French Revolution of 1789–1799. Hoaxes about the Illuminati were later spread in the 1960s by a group of American practical jokers known as the Discordians, who, for example, wrote a series of fake letters about the Illuminati to Playboy.





F

lat Earth: Flat Earth theory first emerged in 19th-century England, despite the Earth's spherical nature having been known since at least the time of Pythagoras. It has in recent years been promoted by American software consultant Mark Sargent through the use of YouTube videos. Flat-earther conspiracy theorists hold that planet Earth is not a sphere, and that evidence has been faked or suppressed to hide the fact that it is instead a disc, or a single infinite plane. The conspiracy often implicates NASA. Other claims include that GPS devices are rigged to make aircraft pilots wrongly believe they are flying around a globe.

Reptilians: Reptilians – also called reptoids,

archons, reptiloids, saurians, or draconi-ans– are supposed reptilian humanoids, which play a prominent role in fantasy, science fiction, ufology, and conspiracy theories. The idea of reptilians was popularized by David Icke, a conspiracy theorist who claims shape shifting reptilian aliens control Earth by taking on human form and gaining political power to manipulate human societies. Icke has stated on multiple occasions that many world leaders are, or are possessed by, so-called reptilians. Critics of the conspiracy theory disparagingly refer to alleged reptilians as lizard people. ●

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Covid Vaccine
Good News!



BREAKING NEWS: REPTILE TOTAL CONTROL IS WAITING FOR YOU IN 2022 /











Delphine-Charlotte Parmentier
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KATHA STO



ARINE DRY



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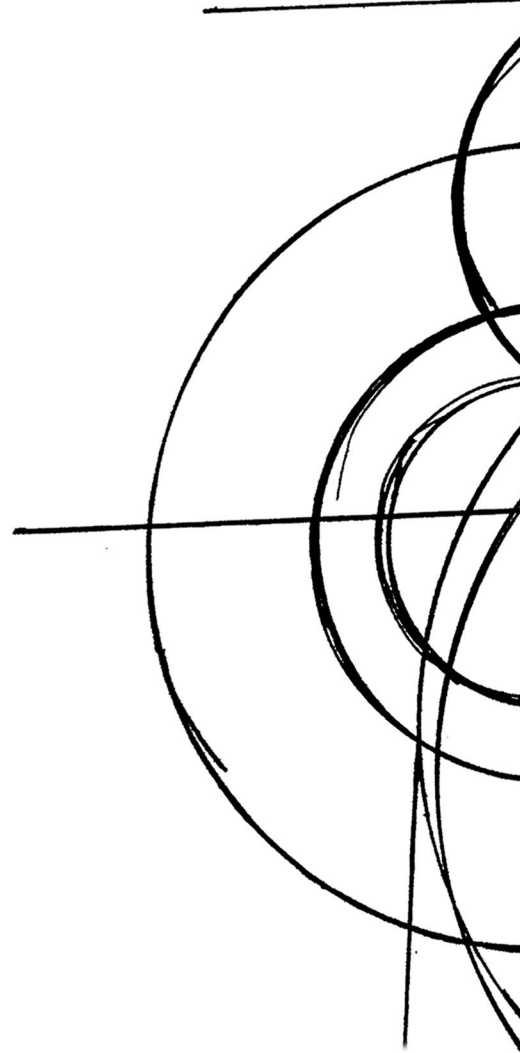
Nora's *Deities*



2.



1.



1. Christopher Esber dress
2. Serena and Lily goose down pillow
3. Lila Shell embellished straw clutch
4. Food for thought: Maito Panama
5. Visit: Panama City, Panama
6. Oriental shorthair cat
7. Mizuki necklace
8. Biomuseo
9. Taboga Island

 @eleanorkobrenik



3.



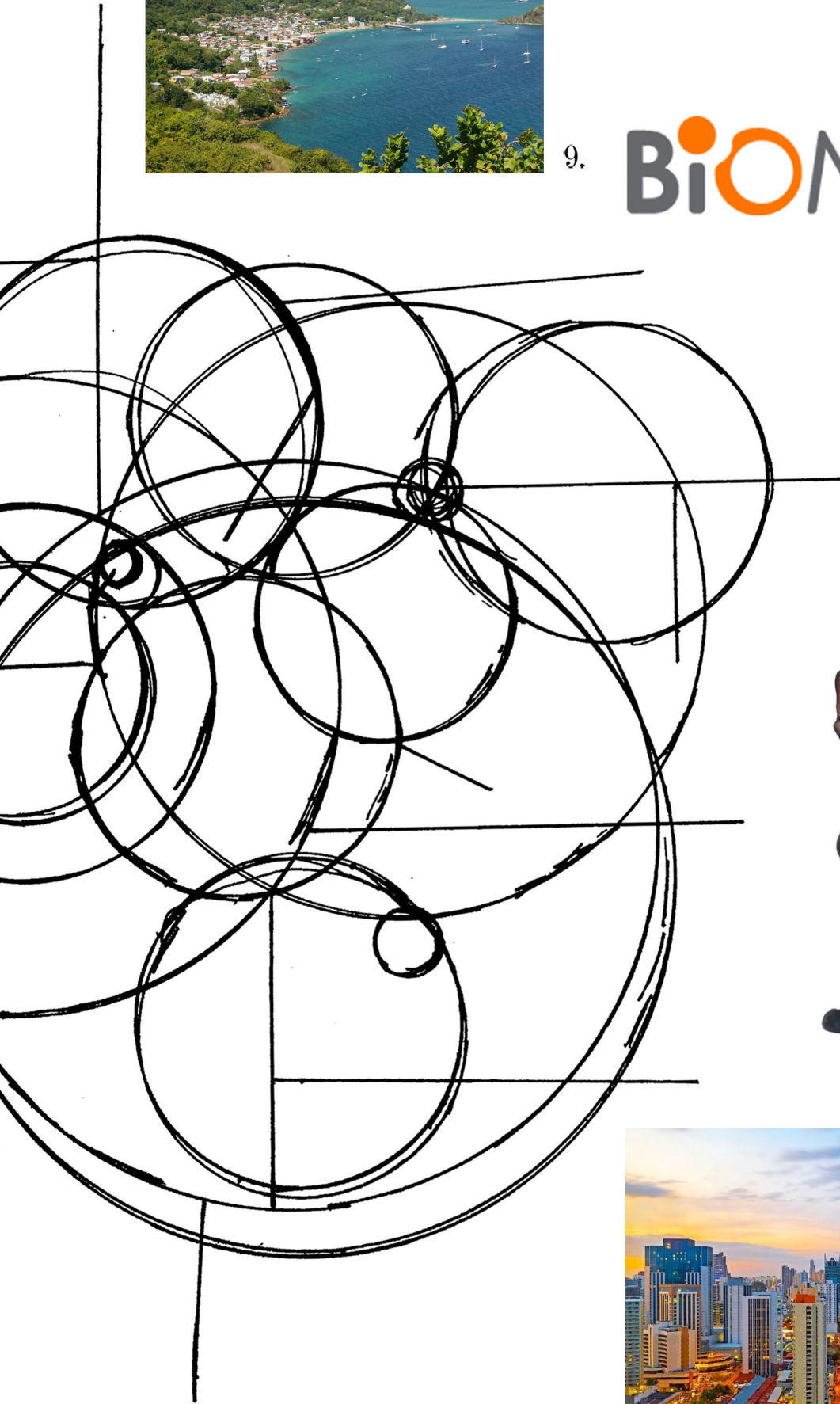
M A I T O



9.

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