

## Short Story

### "Tears In Rain"

By Trenton Burns

An android of the distant future will achieve its humanity when it reflects on the seemingly trivial meaning of its life, "All those...moments...will be lost in time, like...tears...in...rain." A profound and poetic truth, felt by a machine. In that moment it transcends its wiring, its gears and circuits. It finds its soul, only to die within the same breath that carried forth the words.

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She stood under the shower head, the scalding fountain of water searing screaming skin and pillaging away gentle, yet heavy, tears. She only cried when she was alone, her own quiet sadness a burden only she could carry. Heavy were her shoulders, a life's burdens, a wife's burdens.

The steam filled the bathroom like aromatic smoke in a bedouin's tent, another concealment that she could disappear in. In this shower, in this bathroom, behind a locked door and the thin veneer of a shower curtain, she could be honest with herself. No one to see the pain, no emotionally frail husband to see her falter. She had to be strong, the Atlas that held up the earth, because if she let go, if she kneeled for only a moment and set down that great orb to breathe, she feared she would lose him. He would fall off the earth and into some awful oblivion.

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He slugged back his 2nd pill with a heavy shot glass of tap water. Somewhere inside him, within once dry and dying canyons, a sustaining stream of life is released, just enough to keep his legs sturdy to walk the earth another day. He rests his hands on the kitchen counter, leaning his head against the cabinet. Is it a bowing of the head in prayer? A solemn moment of reflection? Both, or neither, or just a weary spirit trying to stay upright, he doesn't know.

He walks down the hallway past the bathroom, the light glowing through the crack under the door, the steam licking its way out. He can



hear her music mixed with the rushing of water. Someone is singing to a good and loving God, but underneath that trained and calculated voice is a softer and more desperate one, one filled with raw earnestness, a plea that the words are true. He is too dull of mind, too bound to his own needs, that he doesn't stand outside that door and linger. Had he, would he, he'd hear the woman that has been carrying his whole world, crying, hoping, praying, that her moments wouldn't be lost like tears in rain.

## Theater Spotlight

Adam Svien

By Katrina Bell

After Spending four years in the army in which he had been based in Korea; El Paso, Texas; and Nicaragua, Sophomore Adam Svien took some time off to work and clear his head before choosing to attend Concordia. Since coming to Concordia, Svien has changed his major twice before recognizing his passion for performing and eventually deciding on a theater major, "To help me with what I want to do in the future."

But Svien was not always interested in theater. As a high school student, he had been a sporty "nice guy jock," and class clown. Then, to help with his social anxiety, he discovered that he was good at improvisation. He had the power to command the attention of a room, diverting his nerves into being something he could control. Svien discovered that he enjoyed being the center of attention, being seen and heard, and making people smile.

Now, he is interested in pursuing a career in stand-up comedy. "There is nothing like being able to command a whole room and make them forget about all of their problems. Doing stand-up comedy is hard to do, but it's worth it if you can do it," he says. Despite stand-up comedy being his primary goal, Svien is also working with, and thinking about, other artistic endeavors, including creative writing, photography, acting, and playwriting.

So far, Svien has been in two productions during his time at Concordia, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, where he was personally written in by the director, as well as *Disturbed by the Wind*, a play about the

discovery of powered flight and the personal struggles of the Wright Brothers. Svien played Otto Lilienthal, the Wright brother's predecessor. As for the future, Svien hopes to be involved in many more productions. He even plans to audition for the spring production of *Skyscraper: The Plebian Scrolls*, written by Jon Ferguson and Mark Rosenwinkel. In the meantime, don't be surprised if he cracks a joke or two!

