



my
pillow
eats

screams

by Matt Moore

“My Pillow Eats Screams”

“My Pillow Eats Screams” is a finalist for the 2022 Aurora Awards in the Best Poem / Song category. I'm making this ebook available to you to read the work while voting is open. If you enjoy it, please see “The Aurora Awards” at the end of this ebook to learn how you can vote for it. Thanks!

-Matt

My Pillow Eats Screams

By Matt Moore

My pillow eats screams, engorged on tears
Trapping confessions in celestial down

For six nights, and six again, the sky sang with steel
Trembling with warfare's thunder
Titans of the clouds, leviathans of the air

Mornings brought
Purple-tinged blood
Staining roadways and rooftops
The ground, drinking greedily
Sprouting mint and thistle
Roses and cinnamon
Snaking over row house fences

Through yards and parking lots
Cemeteries and playgrounds
I first walked—then raced—to gather feathers
With colours beyond count
That struck competitors mad or blind
I dodged and delivered blows
For a pocketful of feathered remnants
From the inner dim and outer dark

Our battles, brutal as the elegance above
Spread like fork lightning
Spilled blood feeding the mites and ticks and flies
Dawn's calm gloom shattered by shattering bone
Gasping, pleading
Final sounds to leave a mortal throat

My treasure, safe beneath my head
Swelling with each lamentful telling
Horrors inflicted and horrors endured
A father's words and a mother's hands
Smiling denials in tomorrow's light
And silence the only armour

Replies, whispered in the small hours, of special death
Flawed, finite bodies jettisoned
An ascension, up and out and above
To touch the sky and rise above the inner dim and outer dark
To the light that eradicates all

For six nights, I wailed my well-practiced denials
Rationalizations as finely honed as steel above

For six more nights, I stalked, drenched in mortal blood
Until wings emerged

We are as that which below has shaped us
We are as that which above calls us to be
I am, now, of everything and everyone
To—at last—scream in the heavens



The Aurora Awards

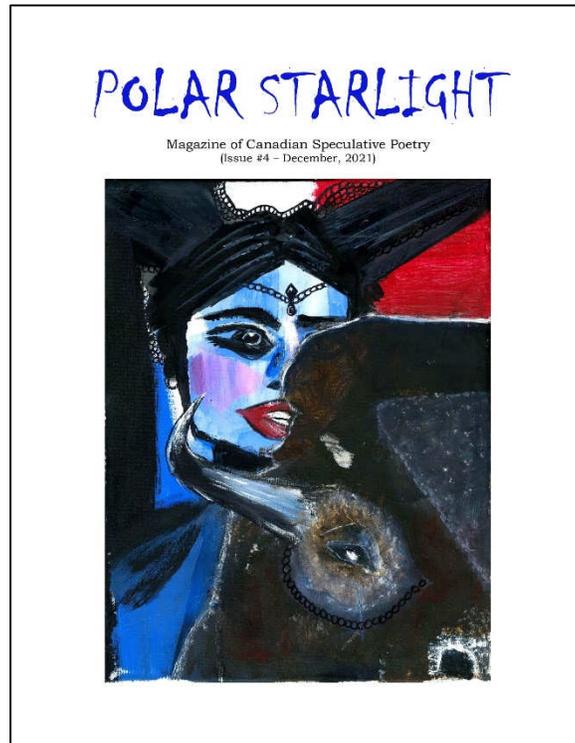
“My Pillow Eats Screams” is a finalist in the 2022 Aurora Awards in the Best Poem / Song category. I hope you enjoyed my poem and will consider voting for it.

What are the Aurora Awards? The Aurora Awards are Canada’s premier fan-voted awards for speculative fiction. Categories cover novels, stories, artwork, fan activities, and more. Any work by a Canadian can be nominated, and any Canadian can nominate works and vote on the final ballot. Past winners have included Robert J. Sawyer, Charles de Lint, William Gibson, Guy Gavriel Kay, and Kelley Armstrong.

I have been nominated a handful of times in various categories, and won for Best Poem / Song in 2018 for my poem "Heaven is the hell of no choices".

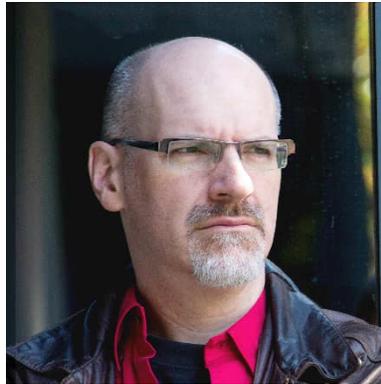
To learn how to vote in the Auroras, visit my website at www.mattmoorewrites.com.

First appearance



“My Pillow Eats Screams” first appeared in *Polar Starlight*, Issue #4, edited by Rhea Rose and published by R. Graeme Cameron.

About the Author



Matt Moore is an Aurora Award-winning author, poet, and columnist of horror and dark science fiction. His work has appeared in *On Spec*, *Cosmic Horror Monthly*, *Polar Starlight*, *The Ottawa Citizen*, *The Drabblecast*, and the Aurora Award-winning anthology *The Sum of Us: Tales of the Bonded and Bound* (Laksa Media) for which his story was long-listed for the Sunburst Award. His short story collection *It's Not the End and Other Lies* was published in 2018.

Raised in small town New England, a place rich with legends and ghost stories, he now lives in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Find more at www.mattmoorewrites.com.

Legal stuff

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This e-book is for promotional purposes only. Its purpose is to allow voters in 2022 Prix Aurora Awards, a fan-voted award, to read the poem “My Pillow Eats Screams” for consideration of voting for it. You may share this e-book up until July 23, 2022 when voting for the awards closes.

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