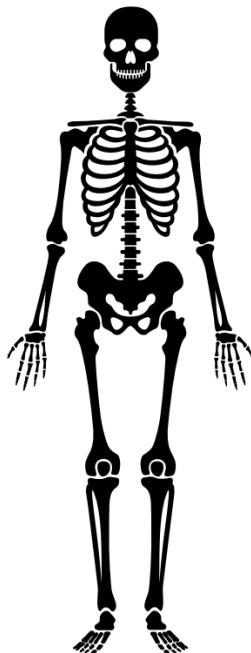


Machine

James Knight



TRICKHOUSE PRESS

Machine
by
James Knight

LIMITED EDITION OF 100
COPIES

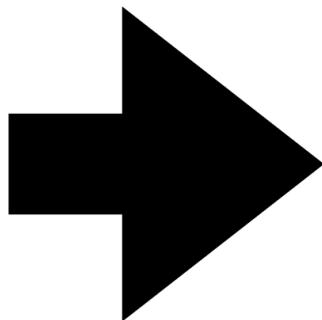
TRICKHOUSE PRESS
LANCASTER
AUGUST 2020



a human is a
biological
machine

first intimations of

TURQUOISE ANGUISH



that is capable of
carrying
out a complex series
of
actions
automatically

a catalogue of single-use
oneiric objects
available for your

pleasure

humans may be
constructed
to resemble
deities

something crawling from dot egg
something scrawling

• • •



you : grey skin puppet

them : deluxe squid flowers

but most function
adequately without
this

a gesture
nothing
a scratch a puncture

in the papery

nothing

the mouth of the poem



is full of pretty little teeth

aesthetic advantage

yes

I saw the pink hosts

I tipped my hat to their fleshy cage

humans can be
autonomous

there were kisses on my bones
and lobsters in my stomach

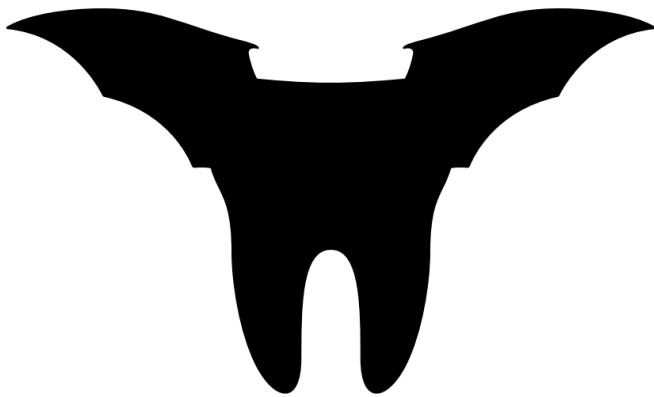
and nothing was forbidden

or  semi-autonomous

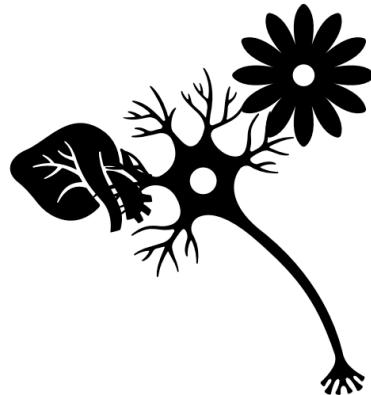
don't share your loaded witchery with them

they don't know the songs
their mouths make a skull sound
their veins are patrolled by ants

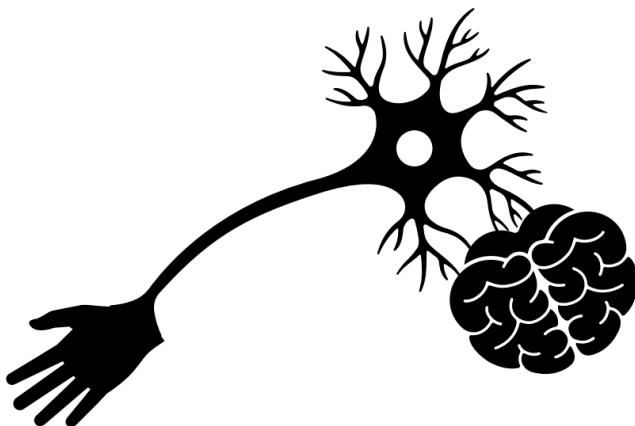
and range from



celebrities such as
John Lennon
Adele
Marie Curie
and
Count Dracula



to collectively
programmed
swarm entities



smartphone drones and even

grammar is when the afternoon forgets itself

there are lines everywhere

the page
the room
the window frame
the horizon

she tries to keep inside

in the attic lives a certified darkness
waiting to think or play

she holds the ant men

sings to their bones

she holds the ant men

you have to

u n f o l d

your

M E A T

in

its

E

Y

Y

microscopic
homunculi

through the
complexity
and variety

**BEWARE! DREAMS
ENACT ATAVISTIC
DEFIANCE AND
MAY RESULT IN
WEAPONISED
MELANCHOLY**

of its
behaviours
a human
may

convey the illusion
and even

suffer



the

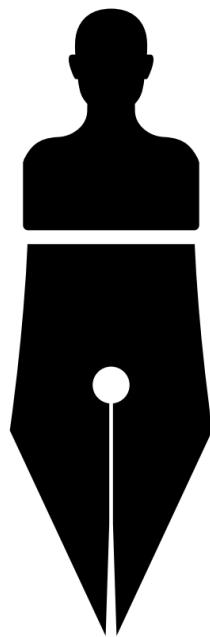
delusion

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT
WE NEED TO TALK

of intelligence
or independent
thought

WE NEED
WE NEED TO TALK TO TALK
WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT
WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT

the agent responsible



for the design
construction
operation and
application



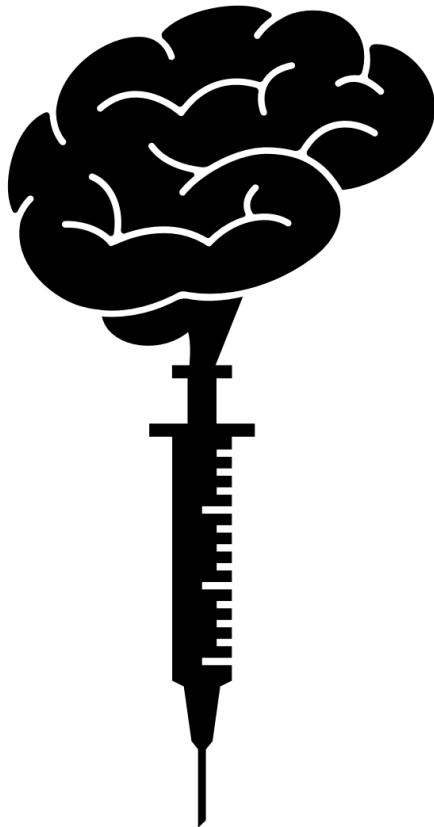
[enter name]

you will be conducted

through a

p
r
o
c
e
s
s

of
humans



as well as systems for
their control

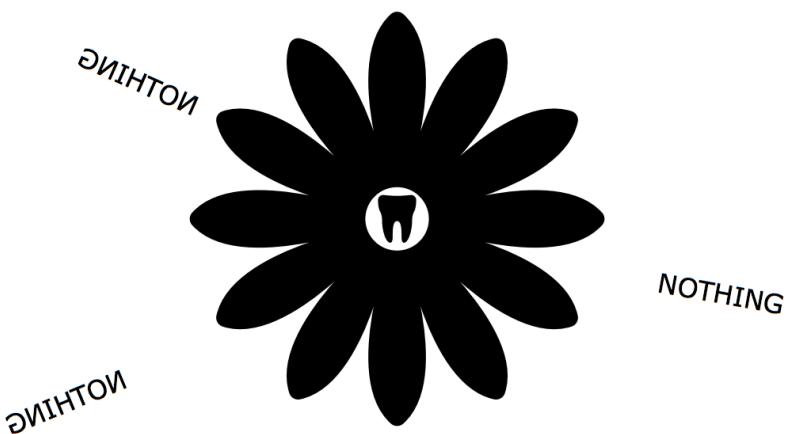
HEAD HEAVY WITH WATER?
UNDER THE WORLD?
FEELING SMOKESCREEN?

sensory functions
and
information
processing is

NOTHING NOTHING NOTHING NOTHING
NOTHING

NOTHING

environmental factors
often have



a marked effect on the
behaviour
of humans

**To prevent brittle eye syndrome,
it is recommended you blink at
least 15,000 times a day**

within the boundaries established by DNA

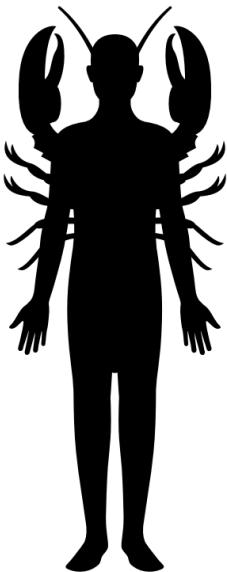
despite the human company
we lie frozen in the bottle

someone sealed up our memories
drained us of night

it isn't so bad

we have the sea
the damaged silk

YOU CAN BE HOT SHARP MODE
YOU CAN BE DAZE SLICK
YOU CAN BE AMPHIBIOUS EVIL



statistically
significant
environmental
factors

include economics education religion

poor suburb again
poor ghost flesh faces
poor common delight

God melts in the tarmac
just as the vulture wheeling around Saturn
wrecks the burning

poor ticking poor timing
poor show

exposure to cultural phenomena such as music

and the behaviour
of other humans
especially older

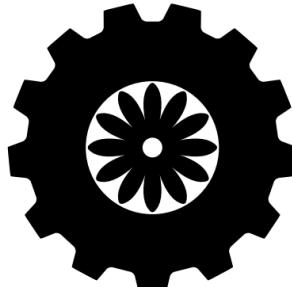
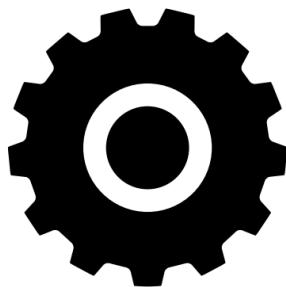
**IDENTITY IS USUALLY
ESTABLISHED BY
REFERRING TO DENTAL
RECORDS AND FINGER
PRINTS**

near nothing inside

but

those are *****

that were his



models



DNA encourages mimicry

[enter process]

you will be con ducted

to a

n
a
m
e

of humans



everything disappears behind skin

mother loved graceful numbers

their wings

their blood

beating in her ears

without daisies

God wouldn't know

the time

a starry algebra

skips in the deep field

that exhibit
characteristics
conducive to
survival

in common with
similar
organic
machines

there are four definitions of *snake*

you have to make your hand
look like a sleeping tree

the atmosphere may be criminal

when we were small
we enjoyed making pictures
out of leaves and blood

such as gorillas

WHAT EXACTLY
DO
YOU
MEAN?

**lobsters ants snakes
bats and daisies**



the



chief
function

of a

human



is
to

host

you have to look at dead bodies now and then

it helps if there is music or a poem

it helps if you hold someone's hand

and ensure
the
survival
of

sometimes a velvet claw

sometimes hot liquid night

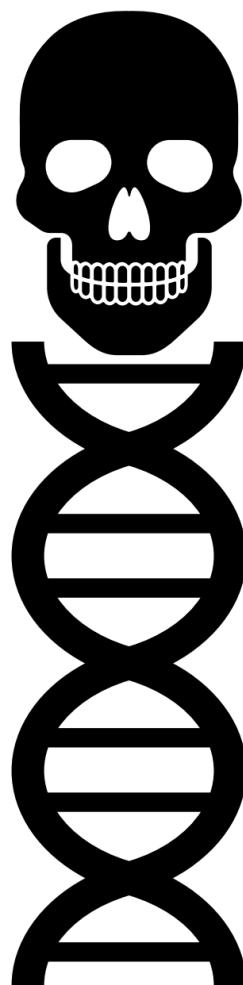
you will feel better



the
DNA

that
built

the poem
will process you
through its wet factory



WHEN YOU DIE REMEMBER TO

SMILE

WITH

YOUR

TEETH

it



James Knight is an experimental poet and digital artist. His books include Void Voices (Hesterglock Press), Self Portrait by Night (Sampson Low) and Chimera (Penteract Press).

Website: thebirdking.com.

Twitter: @badbadpoet

Machine is an exercise in ludic polyphony, juxtaposing surrealised voices of scientific rationalism, advertising, social media and lyric poetry. Employing a range of fonts and symbols, the poem explores human identity and the forces that shape it. However, *Machine* is a game: none of this is to be taken too seriously.

"I have never encountered a pamphlet with an honest tinder bio in the first page ('A catalogue of single-use oneiric objects available for your pleasure'); a pamphlet with the audacity to mime the generously scatty 21st-century mind, looking at the world in cursed tweets, tracing macros in wingdings and disappearing one-liners, fonts and formatting flickering, persisting, one big Rorschach test running through a whole scrolling menu of moods."

- Denise Bonetti, Spam Press