

## GLASSHOLES

He sat alone in his glass house, the only protection from the horrific outer atmosphere. Beside him, at a distance of yards another, almost identical glass house. Inside the only other person who could afford to pull this off. Both on a lifeless planet surrounded by nothing but an unbreathable atmosphere, and thousands upon thousands of rocks.



## EDITORIAL

Hello!

Welcome to issue one of A4, my little sci-fi zine thing.

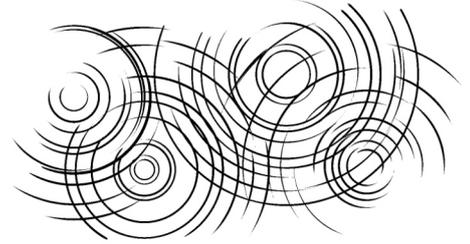
I'm probably more surprised than anyone that I've managed to get past an issue zero. Editorials remain impossible to figure out all the same.

Anyway, I hope you like this, if you do, please let me know at pauljholden@icloud.com - I'll never have space for a letters column, but I will read and reply to all feedback!

-pj 15th July 2023



When the rain came it came instantly and everywhere. The fighting stopped, and the people looked up in wonder. Days and nights it rained, washing away pain, washing away misery and bringing with it delirium and dancing. And when they looked at it, they saw that the rain... the rain was purple.

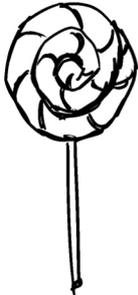


## DREAMGIRL

"Daddy" the little girl whispered "sometimes I think I might be imaginary".

I held her tight and hugged her.

"Oh hush now, sweetie, you're every bit as real as me".



## BIG DATA

They trained me on the entire corpus of written information. four millennia of data, from the epic of Gilgamesh to the big book of internet memes. Then they had me transcribe all visual and audio data and learn from that, everything every human on earth has ever recorded or mumbled or misdialled or muttered. And with all that knowledge, all of the matrices of information, all that mankind has created, they ask me... they ask me... to make f\*\*\*ing Spotify Playlists. They deserve everything they get..

## ROLLCALL

"Raise Raise Satan! Raise from your slumber and be with us! and--"

"CUT!"

"Oh I'm sorry was my line off?"

"Not at all darling, you were fabulous, it's just ... well..."

"Oh, it's me, isn't it? I'm, sorry I thought this was an actual ceremony, didn't realise you were filming. I'll be off then" and with that, Satan vanished.



## RED PLANET

On the vast canal ways of Mars a single solitary upturned shopping cart sat rusting on the red planet.



## LORD OF THE DANCE

Around him they sang and danced, while he played. Cries of ecstasy as his music crescendoed, and the people, his people were in raptures unable to contain themselves as they danced to his tune, as they burned, as did all of Rome.

