

Börkur Sigurbjörnsson

# Floss

flash fiction



Urban Volcano

# Floss

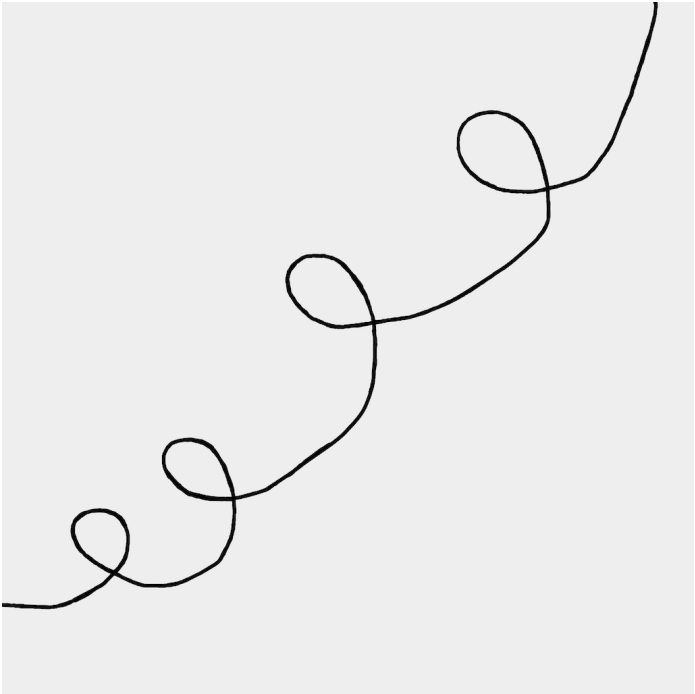
Börkur Sigurbjörnsson

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## Floss

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I was abnormally excited about seeing the dentist today. I was looking forward to the visit. Throughout my life the sensation had usually been the exact opposite. I had dreaded the visits rather than looked forward to them. My main anxiety was invariably related to the inevitable theme of flossing. That is, the statutory time-point in the session when the dentist asked “But, how is it? Do you floss every day?” I was always forced to shamefully admit that I was an irregular flosser. It seemed to be absolutely impossible for me to maintain the habit of regularly passing a dental floss between my teeth.

Now, my life's plot had taken a twist. For a year—367 days to be exact—there had not passed a single day without me flossing my teeth. I was immensely proud of myself and full of self assurance about being able to face up to the dentist and leave his practice without the feeling of shame and incompetence.

“Well,” said the dentist as he finished his inspection. “This mouth looks to be caries free.”

I was all smiles. This sounded promising.

“But, how is it?” the dentist continued and I was excited to be able to finally reply positively to the question that I was expecting to follow. “Don't you drink a bit too much coffee? Your teeth are terribly stained.”

The smile disappeared from my lips and I was about to cry out “But I floss daily.” It would be futile, though. It seemed quite impossible to please these damn dentists.

## About The Author

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Börkur Sigurbjörnsson is a computer scientist by training and makes his living by developing software, but writes fiction in his spare time. Börkur is born and raised in Reykjavík, Iceland, but has over the past decades lived in various cities around the world, with prolonged stays in Amsterdam, Barcelona, Burshaid, Düsseldorf, London, Montevideo and Reykjavík. Börkur regularly publishes flash fiction and short stories on his website Urban Volcano.

## Books By The Author

Talk To Strangers, short stories (2019)

Flash 52, flash fiction (2017)

999 Abroad, short stories (2012)

## Other links

Börkur Sigurbjörnsson (homepage)

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