

Börkur Sigurbjörnsson

Honest Job

flash fiction



Urban Volcano

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Börkur Sigurbjörnsson

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HONEST JOB

“Isn’t it time to get yourself an honest job?”

I knew it was just an innocent question and that she didn’t mean it in a bad way. She cared about me. She wanted to help me. She thought I needed help. Yet, the question irritated me. I interpreted her words as an echo of society’s stereotypical condemnation of my lifestyle.

I felt like society could not tolerate that I worked intermittently as a contractor and in-between projects gave myself the time to think. Time to wander aimlessly about the streets of the city. Time to observe the world as it orbited around me.

Time to capture words I found on the beaten path, scribble them down in a notebook and arrange them into poetry.

I was perfectly aware that society pitied me for renting a small room in a former commercial building downtown, while it thought I easily had the potential to become a middle-manager in a large corporation and buy a house in one of the suburbs. Society felt I was squandering my talent by strolling quietly around the town instead of speeding in a Dodge RAM.

Society did not find it honest of me to refuse to do everything I possibly could in order to maximize gross national product. Foreign exchange earnings, man! Foreign exchange earnings! Society didn't think I paid enough taxes in order to finance the tax-breaks for the data-centers for mining cryptocurrency. It was appalled by the missed opportunity of green energy utilization resulting from my low power loitering.

Society had its expectations and I was not complying.

Screw society. I was happy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Börkur is an avid storyteller with a keen eye for quirky characters, funny dialogs and vivid scenario descriptions. Much of his writing falls within the genre of realistic fiction and his stories are more often than not based on real events in the author's life. Although the tales contain grains of truth, they are melded with fiction, making the reader curious to know the line between reality and fantasy.

Books

Among Other Things, flash fiction (2024)

Talk To Strangers, short stories (2019)

Flash 52, flash fiction (2017)

999 Abroad, short stories (2012)

Links

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