

Börkur Sigurbjörnsson

One Way Or The Other

flash fiction



Urban Volcano

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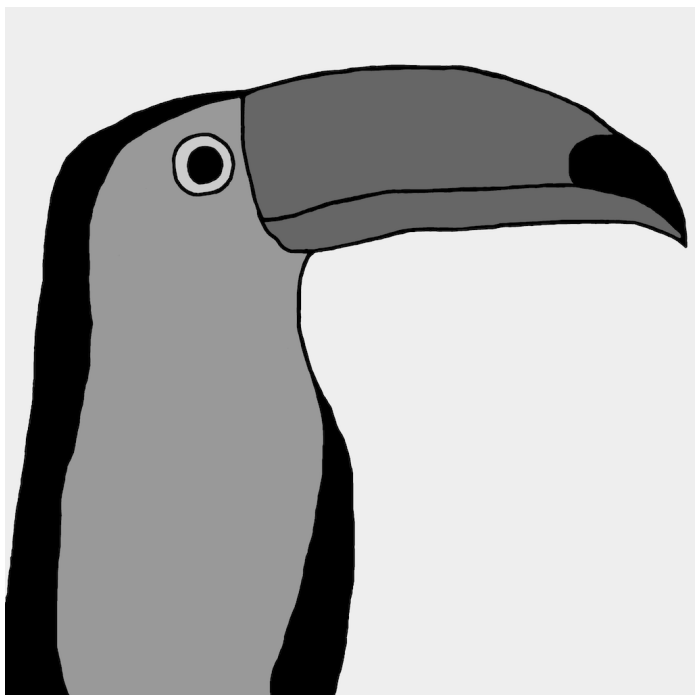
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ONE WAY OR THE OTHER

“Isn’t life such a dream nowadays,” commented a small toucan rhetorically to a larger one as they sat on a branch of a genip tree, baking themselves in the early morning sun, after having stuffed themselves with large quantities of the delicious genipap fruit. “I mean, now with the humans gone, everything is so much quieter, so much safer. You can feel the air is fresher when it gently touches your beak as it moves about the wetlands. We’ve seen an end to all that inhumane human destruction. The deforestation has come to a halt. The climate catas-

trophe has conveniently eliminated the species that caused it. It's like true nature has returned."

"I must say I don't see the world as lyrically as you do," the larger toucan replied in its usual calm and melancholic voice. "I don't see that there is an awful lot of difference."

"No? How come?"

"You see that jaguar down there among the lower branches?" the larger toucan asked calmly without any discernible change in tone. "Carefully making its way toward us?"

"My god, yes," shrieked the smaller bird, letting go of the branch, hovering up in the air and flying over to the crown of the next tree, where it settled down again.

"Well," said the larger toucan after joining the smaller one at its new location. "Next time, it's not that unlikely you won't. You'll be an easy prey for that hungry cat."

The smaller bird did not reply, remained uncharacteristically silent, staring into the distance.

"One way or the other," the larger toucan continued. "Humans or no humans. It's all the same. We eat. We are eaten. That's true nature for you."

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)

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