Every person is born from dreams, but not all live inside a dream. Dreams can become unreachable, a destruction of the human soul itself if not fulfilled. Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979) was a poet who focused on a sense of loss and emptiness in her poetry. In one of her poems, "The Man-Moth," there is a half man half moth trying to reach a light (his dreams). He gets on a train and experiences the obscure approach of death. Around the same time, in the 1960's, a mysterious legend intimidated a small town in Virginia, the Mothman. This legend states that a half moth half man monster walks from obscurity into town to kidnap, warn, or stalk people. These two half moth half man beings might sound like they have nothing in common, but the reality is that one gave origin to the other, thanks to society. The Man-Moth arose from a broken person whose missing dreams metamorphosized him into a moth, a moth that later would become a creature of the night and a root for nightmares and despair.

A man whose nature is not human anymore can change into animal form. However, it can not be any animal. The person has to meet every aspect of it, from sentimental to behavioral. Strong minded people who are natural leaders become tigers or any other predator. People who live out of taking advantage from other people become leeches or parasites. Nonetheless, these are categories for people involved in the government or higher positions within society. The working people or the common people fall into a category that overcomes in the world in numbers, the insects. In society, some insects work in big groups like ants or bees. On the other side, there are those insects that wonder and dream under the night shades and shadows, like the moths.
There is a specific kind of moth in danger of extinction, the "Luna Moth" (meaning moon moth). This is a huge moth with 4.5 inch wings dressed in a light green color tone, almost transparent. By seeing its gauzy wings, one can conclude the luna moth wants to expose its soul through the colorless space of its simple life. The wings are divided into two sections, the upper side, which is connected to a brown horizontal line almost resembling a tree branch, and the lower side, which has tails like a kite. In each part of these two sections, one can see a small circle half yellow half brown. These circles are used as a mask, a mask the moth puts on before the wild society in order to protect itself from being eaten by predators. The body of the luna moth is white and furry. Because the moth only goes out during night, the fur acts as a sweater to protect it from the cold. The moth's legs are red and it has two big yellow antennas on the head. Overall, the luna moth has two big red eyes. Its eyes are as red as blood and as expressionless that, by looking at them, one cannot guess if the moth is daydreaming or staring at someone (Painter). A luna moth is a white furry flying insect whose physical appearance has the sole purpose to protect itself from the cold nocturnal world full of predators in which it lives.

Luna moths have a short life. Their eggs hatch in ten days. As it follows, a caterpillar is born to spend the rest of its childhood (around one month) consuming leaves. There is not much to do or to be expected from an insignificant caterpillar. The caterpillar is born alone and lives without any parental advising or benefits. The caterpillar's only job will be eating leaves and being aware of predators until it reaches its final destiny, becoming a "Pupa." The caterpillar becomes a pupa to transform itself into a moth. When the moth is born it confusedly walks around the tree where its pupa hatched until night falls, and its wings are filled up with blood. Then, the moth will fly from the darkness of the tree to the moon's light. One might think the caterpillar successfully achieved its dream by becoming a beautiful adult moth. However, this dream would only perish into a short life of agonizing suffering and hunger. Moths do not have a mouth. They can't eat or express themselves before anything. Once the caterpillar becomes
a moth it is destined to listen and never be heard. Those tastes the moth enjoyed when it was caterpillar are only memories now. From then on, the luna moth has only one week to find a mate and reproduce before it dies of starvation (Painter 2). Once a caterpillar becomes a moth, death starts ambushing around it and it's remaining time is limited and hopeless. The luna moth lives longing dreams under the moon's light during spring and summer time. The moon's light is the only light the luna moth will ever see. The light is the only joy it would meet during its short life, a light under which it would perish.

A luna moth's life might sound pitiful. However, for some people, moths are only terrifying, bigger, and hairier versions of butterflies. If people tend to feel anxious when feeling moths' legs walking and climbing on top of their skin, then what kind of horror would a moth provoke if it was as big as a human? In 1966, a legend disturbed Pleasant Point, a village near the Ohio River in Virginia. The legend says that a monster half man half moth wandered on the outsides of the town during night time. The creature has a human figure covered in fur. The creature has a pair of gigantic wings on its back that it uses to fly after it's preys. Overall, just like the luna moth, this monster has a couple of intense red eyes which do not express any emotion, or whose deepness is as Maleficent as a blood sea. Based on the mothman legend, some witnesses that saw the monster would say that the "mothman" used its eyes to petrify its victims. One of the witnesses explained that "she approached her car, parked just outside the house, a large gray human-like creature with giant wings and glowing red eyes rose up from the ground nearby...For minutes [she] lay paralyzed in fear, staring into the hypnotic red eyes of the creature" (The mothman). Other people had been followed by the creature until they reached the town. Some people had sworn they saw the monster stalking them from the windows of their own house. One person confirmed seeing the creature carrying a kid under its arm. The mothman is a terrifying creature as big as a man, but whose features resemble those of a moth. The monster has a desire to approximate, scare, and observe people for unknown reasons. However, there is something more to seek and
understand about this mysterious being, the origin of the mothman, the motive for which such an anomaly has approach humanity, and its connection to society.

The mothman is a horrifying creature, there is not doubt. However, many have questioned its existence by affirming "there is not physical evidence... no footprints, no fuzzy pictures, no samples or questionable video" (Brancato 44). Even though the creature doesn't have a physical body, it still exists. Just like air can't be touched, fear can not be measured. Most of the things that intimidate people are bodiless illusions and ideas that overcome people's actions and emotions. Clarifying this, it's prudent to affirm that the place where the mothman came from is not a physical place, but it's real. The mothman is a being created from people's darkness and empty feelings society have implanted in their hearts. Every person who has lost their identity and a sense of meaning to life will melt in agony of despair, transpiring toxic gasses from pollution to finally becoming an insect and then a monster.

Every man tries to work and live for a dream, or for someone's love and sake. When there is none one to love or any dream, there is no inspiration to live. Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979) was a poet who lived during the time when the Mothman legend became alive. Bishop examined the dark side of people's lives in her poems and, by doing so, she helped to expose the mothman's origin in her poem "man-moth." In the first stanza of the poem, Bishop says "Here, above,/ cracks in the buildings are filled with battered moonlight./ The whole shadow of man is as big as his hat./.../ He does not see the moon; he observes only her vast properties,/ feeling the queer light on his hands, neither warm nor cold," (1-3, 6-7). This poem takes place in a city, a city in which it is observed a man standing under the moon's light trying to feel a physical sensation in his skin. The moon's light represents this man's dreams, dreams he cannot feel either departing nor getting close. His dreams stay in a neutral unreachable spot on top of his head. Then, Bishop continues "But when the Man-moth/ pays his rare, although occasional, visits to the surface./.../from an opening under the edge of one of the sidewalks /.../ He thinks the moon
is a small hole at the top of the sky. He trembles, but must investigate as high as he can climb" (9-10, 12, 14, 16). In this stanza, it is understood this man only goes out during night time, probably when he gets out of work. He sees that the moon (his dreams) is distant, but he still wants to believe he can reach it. However, he is too scared to try. In this stanza the man gives the first signs of moth transformation. He cannot understand the reality and the nature of the lighting moon. The man confuses the moon's light with a fascinating mystical object that could be reached anytime. As it follows, Bishop says "He climbs fearfully, thinking that his time will manage to push his small head through the round clear opening/.../ (Man, standing behind him, has not such illusions.)/.../ He fails, of course, and falls back scared but quiet unhurt" (19-20, 23, 25). As the poem advances, the man tries to reach his dreams fearfully, but loses his fear by falling. He is not afraid of falling because he is already used to failing in life. He falls as a moth, opening his wings to embrace the air and fall in circle motion until he lands on the ground. His sense of logic goes weak and he no longer thinks and acts as a "regular man" would. The man standing behind him and the man-moth no longer share the same nature. The man behind him knows his limits and what the moon is while the man-moth keeps thinking the moon is a escape route through a different world. In the fourth stanza, "... he returns/ to the pale subways of cement he calls his home. He flits, /.../ The Man-moth always sits himself facing the wrong way and the train starts at once at its full, terrible speed./.../ He can not tell the rate at which he travels backwards" (26-27, 30-31, 33). In these lines, it is exposed that this man has a certain approach to death. His life is shortening and, just like a moth, he cannot tell when death will come. Nonetheless, the man knows it's coming since he doesn't have a mouth to feed his dreams. Then, similarly to a moth, he follows a simple life pattern where "Each night he must/ be carried through the artificial tunnels and dream current dreams./.../ his rushing brain. He does not dare to look out the window./ for the third rail, the unbroken draught of poison./ runs there beside him. He rewards it as disease" (34-35, 37-39). The man-moth knows he will die. For this reason, he tries
to evade the cruel reality he awaits. Perhaps he must feel the mutation as well. The poison, or rather the harm society has made to him, is running through his veins ready to break his human skin into beast's. Finally, Bishop concludes "If you catch him/ hold up a flashlight to his eye, It's all dark pupil, /.../ one tear, his only possession, like the bee's sting, slips./ Slyly he palms it, and if you are not paying attention/ he'll swallow it. However, if you watch, he'll hand it over" (42-43, 46-48). In the last stanza, the man appears to confront a little moment of desperation. Nonetheless, he is not alone; there are other people by his side. It is also observed that he has a "dark pupil," an emotionless look in his eyes. These man's eyes are similar to a moth's eyes, deep and lonesome. The man-moth was a regular man that, by losing his dreams, he mutated into a creature unable to understand what the reality and the fantasy was.

By deforming reality, a man became half man half insect. Society neglected this person, taking away his dreams and transform them into fantasy. He became part of an insect community whose "characters [are] so enclosed [that] are living an imaginatively charged but sterile life" (Travisano 28). As this man's heart knew he would never reach the moon (his dreams), his heart filled up with hatred towards his human nature. On the outside, he continues to reject reality. The more he rejects reality the faster the moth mutation rate accelerates. Then, he becomes a moth, a moth that doesn't have a mouth and wishes to scream of loud all his frustrations. The man-moth walks stupidly and confused around the streets until he reaches his limits and a monster awakens between despair and laments. The man's actions are no longer his. The moth has taken over his mind, making him behave as an animal. Finally, the man-moth becomes the terrible mothman monster whose only purpose is to wander in the dark night consoling his misfortune under the moon's light, a light he'll never reach. This way when people see the mothman appearing before them, they will know "the mothman is an omen of ill fortune" (Brancato 44). For now on, the mothman will follow people to learn why they live a full life. He'll take one or two
people, once in a while, with him to examine their secrets. And maybe one day, the mothman will understand his human nature again and leave the moth perish alone.
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