

Underground Anthology

Volume 1 *Underground Anthology* vol. 1

Article 14

August 2021

About the Authors

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Recommended Citation

Railsback, Eden and Vergara, Juan (2021) "About the Authors," *Underground Anthology*. Vol. 1 , Article 14. Available at: <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/ua/vol1/iss1/14>

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About the Authors

M. Alexander | on-ramp

M. Alexander is a fourth-year Cal Poly architecture student currently passing the listless days by writing songs that no one will listen to, designing buildings that no one will occupy, and feeling things that no one will experience.

Pamela Arciniega | on-ramp

Pamela Arciniega is a 3rd year city + regional planning student minoring in architecture. Occupying her time as a member of Lambda Theta Nu and a board member for several other extracurricular committees, she describes herself as obsessed with sweets – among them apple pie, ice cream, and abuelita hot chocolate.

Elizabeth Chan-Diaz | the truth about stories

Elizabeth Chan-Diaz, or Liz, as she prefers, uses she/her pronouns, identifies as a womxn of color and was raised in the San Gabriel Valley of California by her Chinese mother and Mexican-American father. Her father was absent in her life from the age of 14, so she considers herself raised by a single mother for some of the most formative years of her life. While she appreciates the many sacrifices her family made for her, Liz also strives to unlearn and heal from the emotional and mental trauma she experienced because of them. Liz is an English and Ethnic Studies major, with minors in Chinese and Italian. She has a younger sister that she cherishes and holds very close to her heart.

Alyiah Gonzales | Excerpt from *Fated to the Seas*

Alyiah Gonzales (she/they) graduated from Cal Poly in Spring of 2020 with a B.A. in English and will be starting her Ph.D. in Literatures in English at Cornell University Fall 2021. They focus on academic and extracurricular work that prioritizes the perspectives and experiences of womxn, nonbinary and queer people of color. Alyiah published her debut novel, *Faeblood Unbroken* (*Faeblood Chronicles #1*) in Spring of 2021, and is currently working on *Fated to the Seas* and *Faeblood Chronicles #2*. Alyiah injects a heavy dose of fantasy in her creative fiction and plans to continue producing more Black, queer, fantasy fiction well into the future.

Shania Raylin Hernandez | La Sobremesa

Shania Hernandez uses pronouns are she/her(s). She is a first generation college student originally from Porterville, California which is located in the Central Valley. She grew up in a strong family of 3 older sisters, her single mother, and grandmother. Creative writing has always been a private outlet for her, but it wasn't until recently that she started sharing some pieces with those closest to her. She hopes this small work helps others feel seen, heard, and validated in their experiences. She is grateful for the opportunity to share how she has come to embrace all of what has shaped her into the person she is today, even if it was not always an easy process.

Ibrahim | Brown Eyes, Our Message from Death Row, Penultimate, Our Friend Maya Angelou

Ibrahim is an Arab-American poet, writer, and aspiring novelist. Ibrahim's poetry is interested in exploring and bringing awareness to racial tensions, social injustices, and mental health to spur conversations and dispel ignorance on topics that are difficult to discuss or neglected. Ibrahim has a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Arts in English Literature and Language with a focus on ethnic literature and has been immersed in different ethnic struggles due to his own mixed ethnicity and interest in different cultures and their struggles. In his spare time, Ibrahim enjoys reading, watching sci-fi T.V. shows, traveling to other countries, and spending time with good friends.

Alessandro Zanghi | Coqui

Alessandro Zanghi is an Architectural Thesis student from Mount Kisco, NY, who comes from a Sicilian/Puerto Rican/Ecuadorian household. He not only writes poetry, but is also involved in a variety of artistic mediums, including clothing design, photography, film, music and various forms of visual art. His work tends to explore race, interpersonal relationships, environmental sustainability, and the reuse and repurposing of discarded objects.