

DRAWN APART

EXT. HILLTOP - DAY

In the shade, a GIRL sits and sketches, surrounded by notebooks, pencils, and a study abroad bag. The girl is dressed in neutral tones, her hair hiding much of her face.

In a planner laid open before her, the date is circled, with the words "FESTIVAL IN THE SQUARE" in all caps. Beneath this are the words, "Prep for guest lesson tomorrow!!!--What does an artist look like?"

Face taut with concentration, the girl focuses on her most recent sketch. Beneath her pencil, a head, torso, arms and legs appear, a female figure dressed in plain clothes.

As a final touch, the girl adds freckles across the figure's nose, ones much like her own. She smiles at the likeness.

The sound of laughter makes her look up. Across the hilltop, a gaggle of fellow STUDENTS dressed in bright colors and carrying study abroad bags (like hers) paint at easels around a fountain.

The girl looks down at her self-portrait once more, seeing it in a new light. She holds it up, comparing it to the glamorous artists in the square. Their charm helps her see her sketch for what it is: the likeness of an unpopular girl who looks nothing like an artist.

The belltower chimes quarter till and the girl packs up her things. She walks over to the nearest trash can, placing the sketch atop the waste bin. Giving the other students a final glance, the girl exits the square, heading down the hill.

EXT. HILLTOP - DAY

On its page in the trash can, the FIGURE comes to life, walking to the edge of the page to watch the girl as she leaves. It bounces up and down and waves, attempting to catch her attention.

When this does little good, the FIGURE runs back and forth across the paper in hopes of moving the page off of the trash can. It only succeeds in covering itself with dirt and trash residue. After several failed attempts, the figure pauses to catch its breath.

In the trash can behind the figure, a CAT suddenly pops its head out of the rubbish, knocking the page off of the waste bin and into the wind. The page rolls through the air after the girl.

EXT. HILL SIDE - DAY

For a moment, the FIGURE panics, covering its eyes as it floats through the air. The figure peeks through its fingers, and frightened, grabs the corner of its page for stability. This gesture changes the page's trajectory, and the figure stumbles.

It grabs the other corner of the page, manipulating it like a flying squirrel suit, and its path straightens out. Excited by this discovery, the figure uses the page's corners to steer itself in the direction of the GIRL, spotting its artist meandering down the hill side.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The FIGURE flies low over the trickle of people making their way down the hill, staying close behind the GIRL.

Nearby, the sound of whistling is heard, and the figure looks over to find a native Italian GUITARIST playing music on a corner. The figure pulls down the corner of its page, changing directions to float by the guitarist, watching with awe.

In admiration, the figure looks down at itself and grabs a piece of trash stuck to its page, playing it as if it's a guitar.

Distracted, the figure flies smack into a wall, across which a mural has been freshly painted. Prying itself free, the figure drops to the ground--made heavier by paint splotches on the page. The figure picks up the bottom middle of the page and attempts to waddle after the girl.

Falling further and further behind, the figure pauses to catch its breath. Just then, a SEAGULL lands before the figure, cocking its head curiously at the unique two-dimensional creature.

Looking around for an escape, the figure dramatically faints, playing dead in hopes the seagull will ignore it, but the bird approaches, stepping on the page. Bored with the unmoving figure, the seagull attempts to walk away only to find the page stuck to its muddy foot like toilet paper.

The bird attempts to shake off the paper, but takes to the sky, figure still attached, and carries the page out to sea.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The GIRL makes her way through the crowds, bumping into people every few feet. She spots a fellow STUDENT--carrying a matching study abroad bag--straight ahead, and looking to avoid a confrontation, she changes paths, heading down a side street toward the water.

Spotting her, the STUDENT attempts to get her attention by waving, dropping his hand when she disappears.

EXT. BEACH STREETS - DAY

A little damp, the FIGURE pulls itself up onto the dock of the island, blowing a raspberry at the SEAGULL flying overhead.

The figure marches purposely towards the beach streets, but its movement is hindered by the wetness of its page, and it leaves a wet trail behind it.

The figure spots the GIRL walking down one of the streets lined with vendors selling art, and sashes after her as quickly as it can.

EXT. DRESS SHOP - DAY

The GIRL admires the art of the vendors along the street, smiling as they wave and gesture to their wares. As she passes more shops, her eye is caught by a beautiful dress in a shop window.

The girl stops to admire the dress and to her pleasant surprise, her reflection appears to be wearing it, her head perfectly aligned with the neck of the gown. She smiles at her reflection.

At her feet, the out-of-breath FIGURE wanders up to the glass. Spotting its artist in the dress, the figure's mouth opens in awe as it admires her. The figure takes a brightly covered paint splotch from its page and stands behind it as if it's a dress, admiring it's reflection.

Shattering its fantasy, the figure catches sight of itself in the window: smeared with water and covered in trash and paint splotches. It looks worse for wear. The figure compares itself to its artist, looking back and forth between the two. The girl's reflection dazzles in the dress shop gown; the figure looks like it belongs back on the pile of garbage.

As the figure looks at its reflection, the girl begins to notice imperfections of her own.

She combs through her hair with her fingers and pulls at her baggy clothes. She even touches her freckles, her face registering disgust. The girl turns away from the window, continuing her walk down the hill.

Left alone, the figure's face shows its sadness as it walks in the opposite direction from the girl, purpose lost.

EXT. ITALIAN SQUARE - DAY

Downtrodden, the FIGURE stumbles into a square where a celebration is taking place, it dodges feet and streamers as a parade loops around the square. The loud music and bright colors are a strong contrast to the figure's melancholia.

Spotting a collection of KIDS drawing with chalk, the figure wanders over to them. It admires their art, a ghost of a smile on its face. A kid blows away the excess dust, giving the figure a face full of chalk.

EXT. ITALIAN SQUARE - DAY

From a curb, the GIRL watches the parade weave around the square, the music and laughter lifting her spirits.

She admires the artists around her: the DANCERS, the PAINTERS, the MUSICIANS. Each one has their own unique style and personality.

EXT. ITALIAN SQUARE - DAY

The FIGURE wanders around, aimlessly, and backing out of the way of a MUSICIAN, the figure runs into the leg of the GIRL.

Now in a much better mood, the girl looks down to see her figure at her feet. Curious, she picks it up and admires the tokens of its journey: the paint, the chalk, the smudging. It's still a self-portrait, but it now looks as unique as the other artists around her.

She looks between her figure and the DANCERS, the PAINTERS, the MUSICIANS, and has an epiphany, smiling down at her figure.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The girl addresses a small classroom of young students. She wears the dress from the shop window and has let her hair down, her bangs now out of her face.

On the chalkboard are the words "Guest Lesson: What does an artist look like?/ Che aspetto ha un artista?"

Walking over to her desk, the girl picks up a stack of pages on which sit replicas of her figure. As she begins to pass them out, the figure on each page eagerly runs around the blank space, curiously staring out at its chosen student.

Crayons are thrown about as the students begin to color, the figures proudly holding very still for adornment. Slowly they begin to take on life: one is battling a dragon, another is a movie star, another is a scientist, but each represents its artist.

The figures peek over at one another to admire the STUDENTS' handiwork. A girl with a unicorn patch on her jacket draws her figure riding a magical unicorn and beside a folder with dolphins on it, a little boy makes his sketch a dolphin trainer.

At the front of the class, the girl smiles to herself as she attaches a piece of paper to the board with a magnet. It's her first figure.

It's lines are no longer smudged, but it proudly sports the paint and chalk of yesterday's adventures. Curiously, the figure looks out at the room and the other versions of itself as they become works of art.

It sees the similarities between the students and their drawings--the boy with a dragon on his shirt and his figure battling fire, the girl with star clips in her hair and her figure that's an astronaut.

Looking over to its creator, the figure sees how happy the girl is and the two share a moment of pride. Using the chalk on its page, the figure smears the dust until it resembles the hilltop where the girl likes to sketch. Now the figure--a self-portrait of the girl--doesn't appear plain at all, but literally glows with confidence.

As it watches the other figures come to life and step out of their pages, the figure settles back in the grass, and a huge smile draws itself across the figure's face.