

# & Contributors

**Audrey Lacuna** was born and raised in Quezon City and is currently persevering through a degree in Creative Writing at UP Diliman. She has been writing fiction and non-fiction ever since she was a child, starting, appropriately, with a short story about a girl who was eaten by her homework. Aside from writing, she is a decent brush calligrapher, origami folder, stuffed animal jacket crocheter, and Love on Top karaoke singer. You can contact her at [lacunaaudrey@gmail.com](mailto:lacunaaudrey@gmail.com).

**Bea Angela L. Soliman** studied Sociology in Los Baños before shifting to Creative Writing in Diliman, where she became a member of the UP Writers' Club. She used to work part-time as a writer, editor, and photographer before taking a temporary rest. When she's not in Quezon City, she's in her grandparents' home in Bulacan, where she enjoys playing with her little cousins and watching the sun rise over the rice fields. You can find her stories at [bealsoliman.wordpress.com](http://bealsoliman.wordpress.com).

**Micaela Norel** is currently a student in the MA Creative Writing program in UP Diliman and works as a web content writer. Along with essays, she has written plays staged during the Short + Sweet Theatre Festival. Her most recent publication is an essay entitled "The Adult Life", which was featured in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer's* Young Blood column.

**Kent de Lima** is an undergraduate student of Creative Writing from Camarines Sur who writes poems, essays, and stories about his hometown, backyard, and childhood. He spends most of his time either online, with his cats Kitana and Mileena, or rereading his favorite Sarah Teasdale collection. According to a dear friend he asked for help with writing this bio, he has grit, passion, and hunger for life—something he believes Kent has but Kent is yet to discover for himself.

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**José Martin V. Singh** is an undergraduate student of Creative Writing at UP Diliman. He has written news for the *Philippine Collegian* and *Rebel Kulê*. An article of his on the Lumad struggle against heavy militarization won best in-depth report in the 2018 UST National Campus Journalism Awards. His poetry is forthcoming in the Collegian's anthology, *Points of Contact*. Some other works of his have appeared in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and *Inquirer.net*. He was editor-in-chief of UPSCA's *Banaag*.

**Julia Jimenez** is a student of BA Comparative Literature in UP Diliman. She is also an active member of the UP Writers Club. Her work has been published in the *The Literary Apprentice 2020: Unnatural Disasters*. She lives in Quezon City with cats that count as additional family members.

**Leo Cosmiano Baltar** studies BA Journalism at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. Their articles can be found in *Tinig ng Plaridel*, while their poems have been published or are forthcoming in *The New Verse News*, *Hong Kong Protesting*, a project of *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*, 聲韻詩刊 *Voice & Verse Poetry Magazine*, *Vox Populi PH*, *Philippine Collegian*, and elsewhere.

**Jasmine Panganiban** is a junior studying Business Economics at the School of Economics at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. Jasmine was a campus journalist in her high school, specializing in news writing. She also has experience in writing editorials and features. A self-professed bibliophile, Jasmine enjoys classic literature and biographies.



**Jacha** is 21, studies philosophy and tries to make art from time to time. If it isn't the smell of oil paint and solvent filling his room, it would be the sound of fingerpicked guitar chords, of screeching violin strings, or a wail of frustration from a writer in the dark. Most of the time, it's none of those, just the aging of days, and it still drives him crazy. He lives in Quezon City.

**Anton Cabalza** is a graduating BA Anthropology major. He won second prize in the Kabataan Essay category at the 2011 Palanca Awards, and has since told himself a hundred times that he “should get back into writing”. He was in engineering for two years until he decided that he wanted to learn and write about humans and humanity instead. He likes the ocean, and he loves his friends.

**Nissie Arcega** is a 25-year-old enby writer and film producer. She writes comics at *Kalabaw Kolektib* and essays on Philippine cinema at *Strike II*, volunteers for *Gantala Press*, and freelances as a game writer. However, she is most comfortable in her pottery studio because she doesn't have to pretend to be neurotypical. She currently resides in her family's first home in Quezon City, learning to coexist with her childhood traumas.

**Mika Soria** is taking their Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines Diliman. They are a content strategist and copywriter for obscure enterprises—a fancy way of saying that they don't get paid. Prior to this publication, most of the pieces they have written are kept away in the margins of notebooks, though this, they assure, will soon change. They are passionate about comedy and video games, creating content on the platforms YouTube and Twitch.



**Gem Carmel Pante** is an undergraduate student from the Department of English and Comparative Literature taking up Bachelor of Arts in English Studies, Major in Language. She's a certified kid at heart who enjoys collecting and reading children's books. Someday, she dreams of writing textbooks and storybooks for the Filipino children because she believes that these pieces of literature are integral in developing their young minds and hearts.

**Immanuel Canicosa** is a writer and producer for One Sports, the sports department of TV5 Network. He is taking up his MA in Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines Diliman, and is a graduate of De La Salle University. His writings have appeared in *Malate Literary Folio*, the anthology *Kathang Haka: The Big Book of Fake News*, and the *Philippine Daily Inquirer's* Young Blood section.

**Jabez Monsanto** is a BA Creative Writing student in UP Diliman who writes both fiction and non-fiction works. She was raised by her three aunts and three uncles who are all unmarried. This fuels her interest in writing about family. She is a member of UP Writers Club and UP Red Cross Youth. On her days off, she likes to crochet but she seems to be cursed from finishing any of her projects.

**Katrina I. Martin** was a fellow at the 3rd Amelia Lapeña Bonifacio Writers Workshop (The Novel) and a finalist in PBBY-Scholastic Asia's You Write to Me, I'll Write to You manuscript competition in 2017. She has written professionally for television, film, and the global social sector and currently works for a cultural government agency. Katrina completed her MA in Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines Diliman in 2021.

**Fatima Grace Vinlunan** was a BA Psychology major who has been in the ESL industry for the last five years. Like her protagonist, however, her childhood dream was to become an animator. She may not have gone that direction, but she still hopes to bring her dream worlds to life through her art and stories. Her entry in this anthology is her first published work, and she wants to inspire people to believe that no one is ever late in God's timeline.

**Dean I.** is a hobby writer from the College of Education. He is a nonbinary and transmasculine writer who uses both he/him and they/them pronouns. He enjoys the whimsy in the writing styles of fables and children's stories, which leaves a notable influence in his own style of writing. They enjoy writing comedy and heartwarming scenes. They usually limit their writing to poems and short stories, but they are currently working on a novel which they hope to publish someday.



**Andrea Mae Camacho** is a sophomore student majoring in BA Creative Writing. When she's not despairing over the dystopia that is called the Philippine government, she spends her time reading YA novels, learning French, and watching historical fiction TV shows. She loves her dogs Bruno and Choco. The titular character in *Kiko's Quest* is named after her first childhood dog.

**Ira Valenzuela** is a graduate of the University of the Philippines with a degree in Creative Writing. She's currently navigating adult life and working as a content producer for Booky. In her spare hours, she's tucked away in her room, creating young adult stories that celebrate LGBTQ+ Filipinas. She lives in Naga city where she can keep a close eye on her sometimes-disappearing cat.

**Anika Castañeda** earned her undergraduate degree in Creative Writing from the University of the Philippines Diliman. Aside from children's literature, she dabbles in comics writing, game development writing, and creative nonfiction. Her other interests include graphic arts and design, photography, and tarot reading.

**Bea Claridades** is a 22-year-old BA Creative Writing graduate from University of the Philippines, Diliman. She grew up in a lower-middle class household in Obando, Bulacan and in Valenzuela City, where she first became aware of the idea of having more, having less, and having nothing. Her picture books are grounded on the lives of urban poor children and the spaces they navigate.

