

## FABLE FACTORY

# Take me in

AAHIR MRITIKA

I remember you singing me lullabies,  
I remember playing on your knee.  
I can see you holding me as I fell,  
From a wall when I tried to leap.  
The whole night when we stayed awake,  
Your fairy tales for me.  
I was the princess of my dreams,  
I was what I knew as me.  
When I lost myself down that dark river,  
I held my hands out for you.  
It's so dark here; I can't see  
I'm somewhere lost below.  
I shouted until my voice couldn't be heard,  
I shouted until you believed the truth.  
Everybody's looking for answers but no one believes me.  
It's a strange place to live in, a strange place to rule.

My hands are tired, knocking on your door.  
Won't you take me in, father? And put me to sleep?  
I just want someone to see, I can't ask no more.  
When you looked for monsters, under my bed,  
Little did I know that they existed -  
On innocent souls forever they feasted.  
They scarred the pure bodies to be called sinful.  
Without a right, every girl they did rule.  
They did worse than murder, worse than killing.  
They kept me alive, left me for healing.  
These scars though invisible, these scars though impure  
These scars now mark me, make me sure.

I lay on the floor screaming as they drank my soul,  
I sank into oblivion as they took my light.  
A body to be hated, a body to be killed.  
I'm such a burden, dead like the night.  
Please hear me out, it's not my fault.  
I don't even know where my body was found,  
I went to sleep shouting in pain,  
I woke up on an empty road  
Passed out naked, by a drain.  
The police don't hear me, the people can't bear me.  
They remain victorious in their glory.  
I'm still knocking on your door to tell you,  
I'm fighting to stay here, hanging low.  
My pleas remain unheard, hidden in the shadows.  
Such dark days are here, no one wants the truth.  
Cries are muffled, lost in the echoes.

*The writer, 13, is a grade VII student  
at S.F.X Greenherald International School.*

## LIGHT DRIPS

## Hope

ARUBA ADIL

Everyone leaves  
- With broken bones  
Because your limbs are sticks  
And your eyes are stones.

But when you smile light drips  
- From the corners of your lips.  
And the edges of your fingertips  
When you hold my hips.

So wake up  
To your mother's plaintive coos  
Put on your shiny black shoes  
Forget about school-morning blues  
And come meet me.

FARINA AFRIN MALIK

Hope is a melody of the unsung  
The murmur of the uneducated young  
The silent prayer of those who cannot speak  
The invisible screams of the weak  
Take a deep breath and a few steps back  
These words of wisdom will set you on track  
You're brilliant and that's all you need to know  
The world is waiting for you so I say "GO!"  
That leap of faith will sort you out  
All that's bad will be turned about  
The happy days are yet to come  
So sit - and to that melody, hum.