

Bullets

Heat hotter than the sun burns Julien's spine. He scrunches his face, hoping contorting his mouth in ways he never knew were possible would distract him from the three bullets blazing through his lower back. Trying to pull himself off the ground, his body tremors like a volcano ready to erupt. Lava runs up and down his spine. He falls back down to the ground in a pool of blood where his hands once were. Sirens sound, causing Julien's ears to ring. He could take the blaring noise, however, being his pain was louder than it. His legs go numb. Scorching lava travels into his throat. Footsteps shuffle towards him with haste. Julien tries to move his legs. In that moment, reality strikes— he'll never be able to go for an evening jog again.