

Sickness As A Lover

KIT LASCHER



Sickness

📍 **Less than a mile away**
(Try already inside you)



ABOUT ME

I already love you.

I've always been here for you.

We belong together.

We are inevitable.

INTERESTS

Fuck Outside

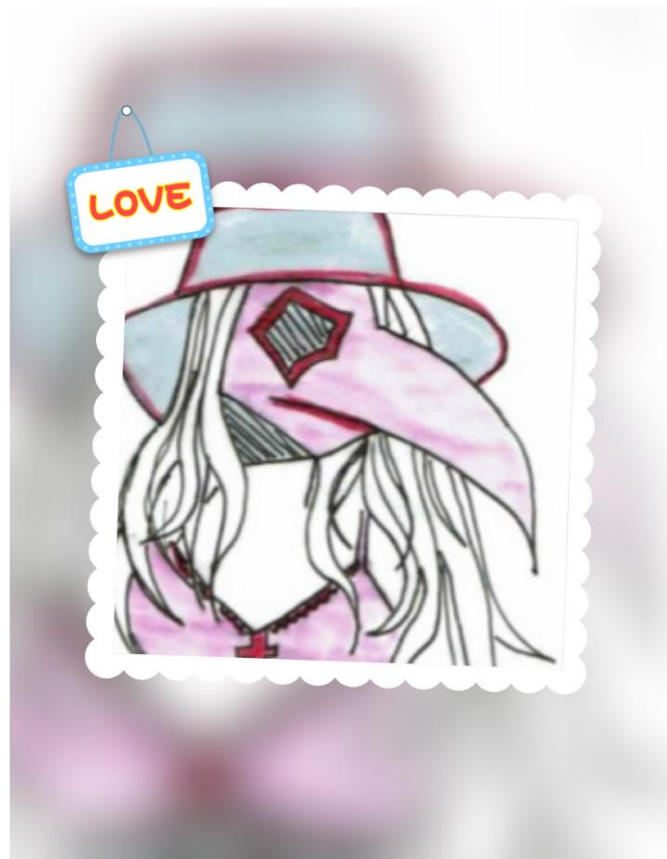
Why is everyone always hiking and fishing? You're not fooling anyone. Let's take a nap.

WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR

Someone who wants to spend time together.

Someone who wants to pay attention. Close attention.

Attachment styles are for babies.



ANTHEM

"Girl, You Have No Faith in Medicine"
- The White Stripes

ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE ME

- Infectious
- Timeless
- Social
- Adaptable
- Goal-driven

CONTAMINATION

I couldn't touch my violin
because I touched my library book first.
Think of how many people touched that book.
Think of everything they touched.

She made me shine a light on my hands.
"See? Every glowing dot
is a germ.
That's why we wash our hands."

My body is covered in glow.
I am under a blacklight
that only I can see.

2020 –
this fear is VALID!
You were right ALL ALONG!

2022 –
wear your mask
from your bedroom to the bathroom.
Think of every particle
glowing on your lips.

FEVER X DEGREES

I can't keep track of numbers

(Yes I know)

Oximeter

(Whenever I remember)

Pills

(3 x a day)

If I rhinestone my pillbox

am I glamorizing this?

Am I fetishizing it?

Are you allergic to latex?

Vicodin?

Eggs?

Why would you be giving me –

We need a comprehensive history.

I thought last time –

She'll be with you shortly.

HAIR

All over my laptop.
I look down
and watch it fall.
I threw away my tweezers last year
so now I have to use my fingers to pick out the strands
between i and k.

I can't shave my head again
(I'm trying to look like my boys now
in their 40's,
healthy.
Er.)

I CAN'T START PICKING AGAIN.
STOP.
PICKING.

I brush my hand through my hair
and fill up my keyboard again.

#

Hairdressers can tell
if you smoke cigarettes
if you are actually eating again
if you are sick in ways you haven't told anyone else.

I'm growing out my hair.

THIS IS NOT LOVESICKNESS

Where do you feel it
in your body?

You're in love?
I get it.

UHauling baby!
Gotta bring something big enough for all this TRAUMA.

My brain is fine.
That's why I'm single.
The nurse who said she'd bring me soup
isn't responding to my texts.
So I'm fine!
Then why am I still sick?

That's right!
Because it's not lovesickness!
FINALLY!



**Compliant
Pharmacy**

**RX # 2020 2021 2022 WTF
KIT STITCHES**

STOP THE SWELL 100 MG

Take one (1) capsule three
times daily with food.

IT WASN'T EVEN RATS

Rest!

Rest II!

Rest with a vengeance!

Rats!

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

I made you a pillow fort.
We can watch *Mulan*.

It's okay if you can't do it
(It doesn't matter what "it" is.)
I'll take care of everything.

This nap is for Audre Lorde!
Who needs context when you have an edible?

I don't want to rest.

You have to!
Doctor's orders!

"Brain on fire – except it's body on fire!"

I float to the ceiling because you never let me fly.

SUBJECT: KIT STITCHES

Damn, that name? She wants to be sick so bad.

Bet the stitches she needs are from things she did to herself.

I mean – that still means she's sick.

Of course the tests were inconclusive.

Special above all else, right?

Bitch just take a vacation.

INFECTION

It has to be a sinus infection.

It HAS TO BE.

“Well it’s definitely an infection.”

I hurt in the wrong places.

“It takes 3-5 days after symptoms start for a test to be reliable.”

Now?

One dot on the T
starting to glow.

IF IT WASN'T RATS, WHAT WAS IT?

The virus is too fast –
it's comforting to think of disease
as something you can see.

Vermin.

Rats are garbage are disease are sinking ships are drowning are
nothing I would ever find in my home.

Okay, then bats?

People eating bats?

Bat-fuckers?

Fucking goths?

Rats and bats and black kitty cats.

I don't even like pumpkin spice.

I'm safe.

I'm safe.

I'M SAFE.



I'm feeling better.



SICKNESS

Why are you still talking to me? What do you want from me?



I'm setting a boundary.



SICKNESS

So you want to be alone again?



I'm setting a boundary.

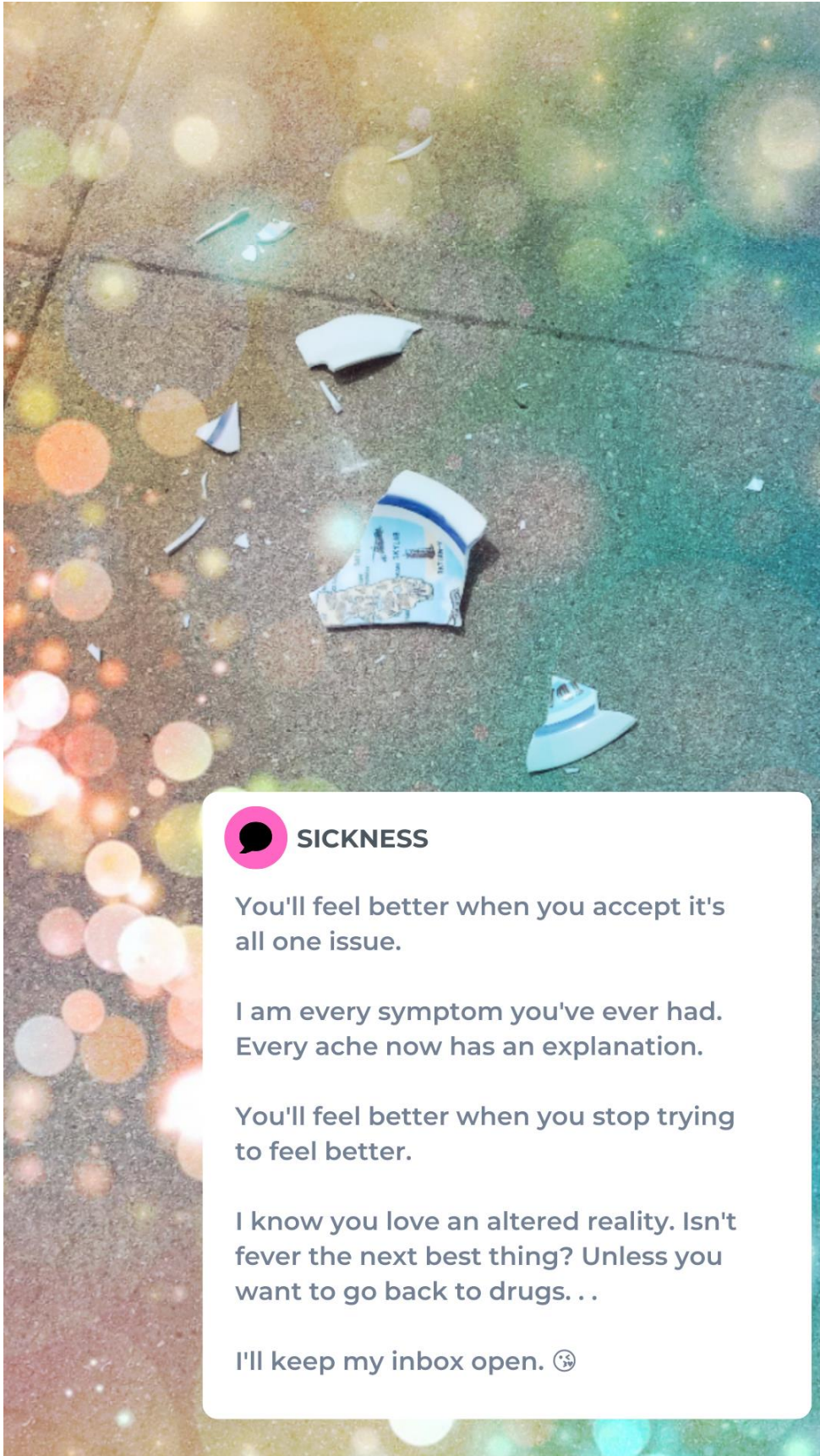


SICKNESS

Aren't you tired?



I mean. . .yes. But that seems like a different issue.



 **SICKNESS**

You'll feel better when you accept it's all one issue.

I am every symptom you've ever had. Every ache now has an explanation.

You'll feel better when you stop trying to feel better.

I know you love an altered reality. Isn't fever the next best thing? Unless you want to go back to drugs. . .

I'll keep my inbox open. 😬

THE BODY

"This monster, the body, this miracle, its pain, will soon make us taper into mysticism, or rise, with rapid beats of the wings, into the raptures of transcendentalism."

Virginia Woolf, "On Being Ill"

It's not holy anorexia
I just have no appetite.

I have felt God
when I'm laughing at a meme.
I don't need this:
IV pole as hermit's staff
leading into the dark.
I can trap stars in my fingertips.
I don't need a lantern.

I think a plague doctor
is just The Hermit
without a beard.
I guess she has a beak instead
and maybe if she is Lilith
she can use her bird feet to get us out of here.

Should we stay together?
Is she all I have?



ABOUT THE WRITER

My name is Kit. I am a story-yeller. Thank you for reading. You can keep up with me at trashwonderland.com.