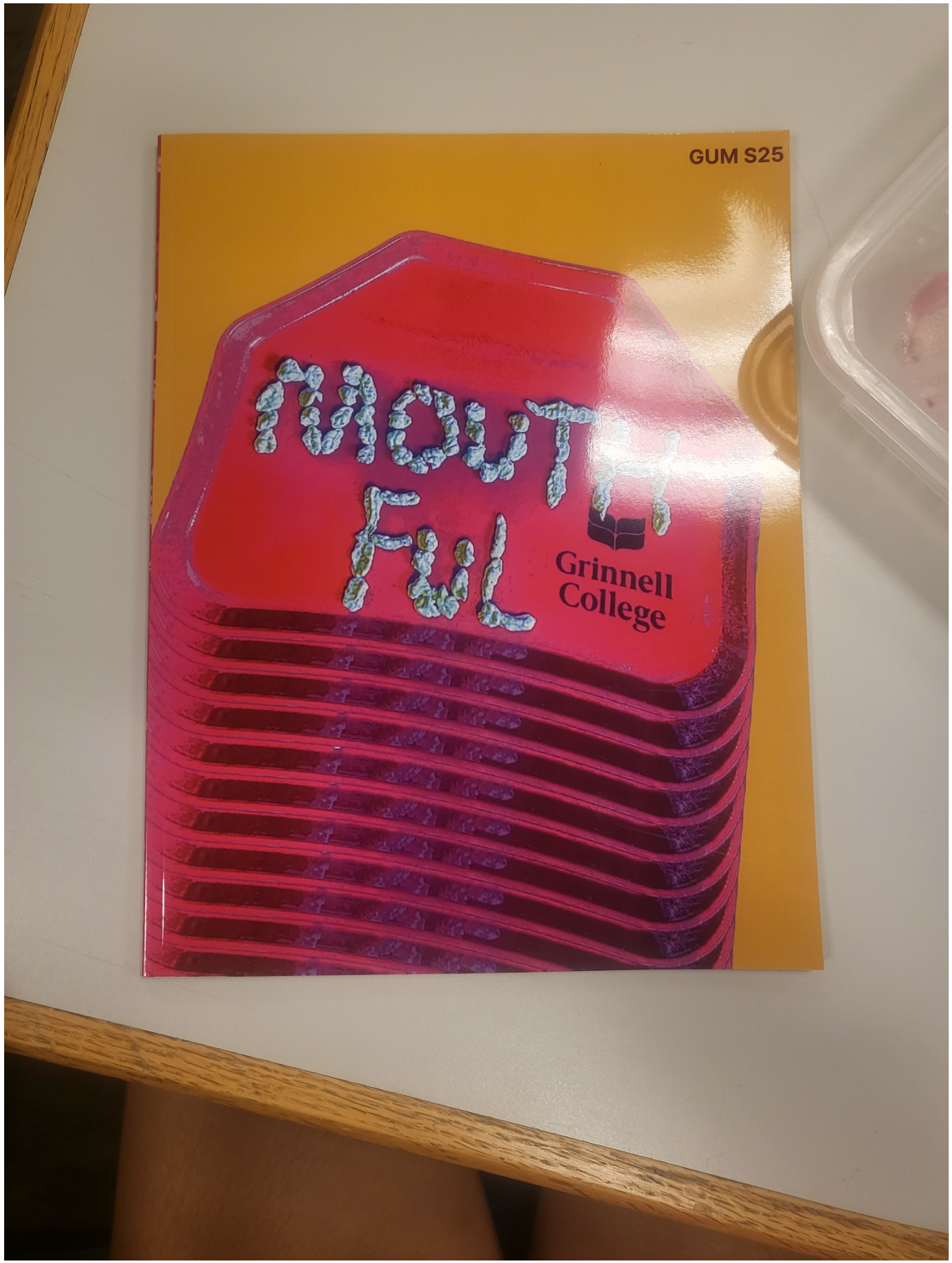
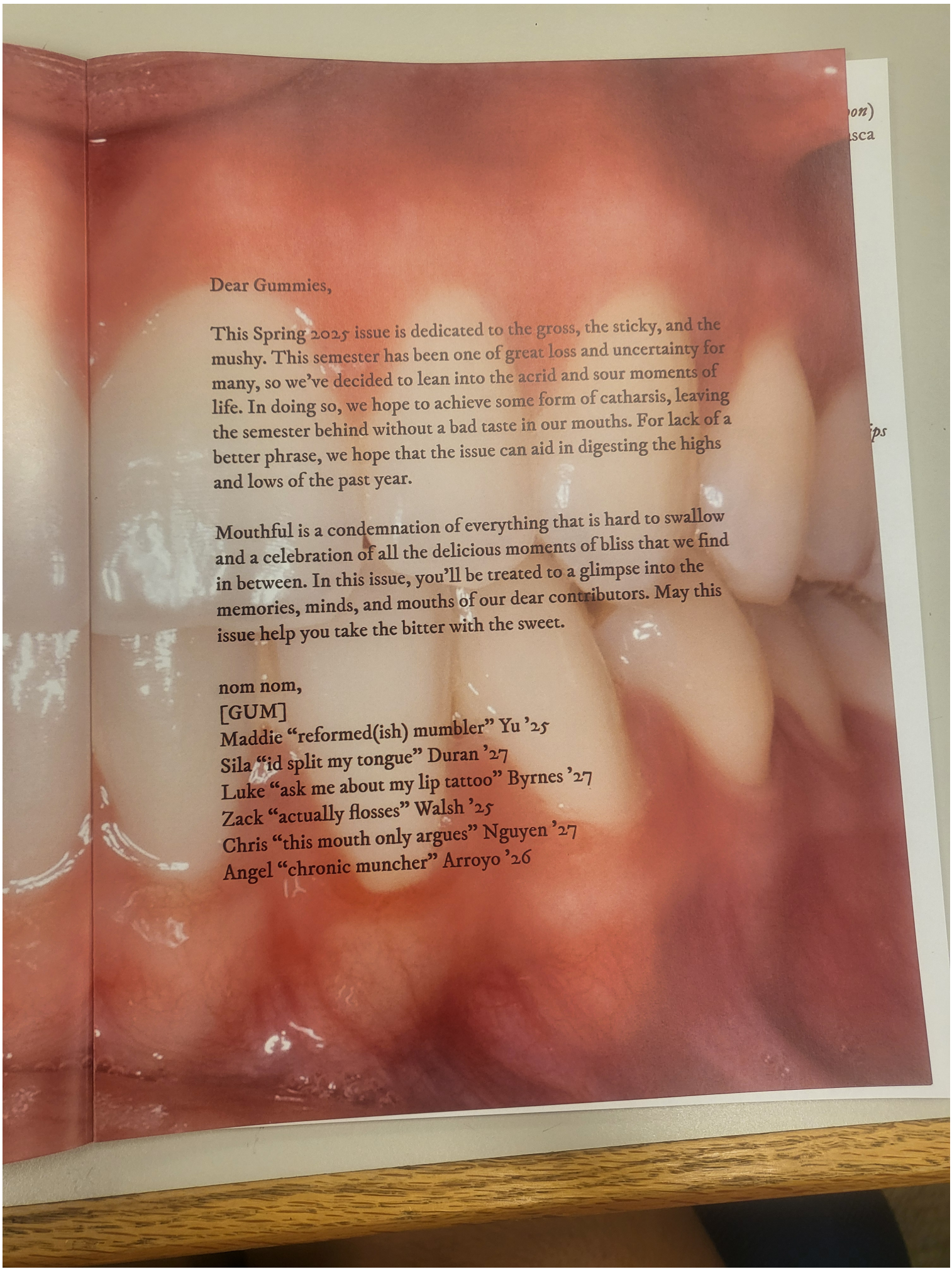

GUM S25
Grinnell College





Dear Gummies,

This Spring 2025 issue is dedicated to the gross, the sticky, and the mushy. This semester has been one of great loss and uncertainty for many, so we've decided to lean into the acrid and sour moments of life. In doing so, we hope to achieve some form of catharsis, leaving the semester behind without a bad taste in our mouths. For lack of a better phrase, we hope that the issue can aid in digesting the highs and lows of the past year.

Mouthful is a condemnation of everything that is hard to swallow and a celebration of all the delicious moments of bliss that we find in between. In this issue, you'll be treated to a glimpse into the memories, minds, and mouths of our dear contributors. May this issue help you take the bitter with the sweet.

nom nom,
[GUM]
Maddie "reformed(ish) mumbler" Yu '25
Sila "id split my tongue" Duran '27
Luke "ask me about my lip tattoo" Byrnes '27
Zack "actually flosses" Walsh '25
Chris "this mouth only argues" Nguyen '27
Angel "chronic muncher" Arroyo '26

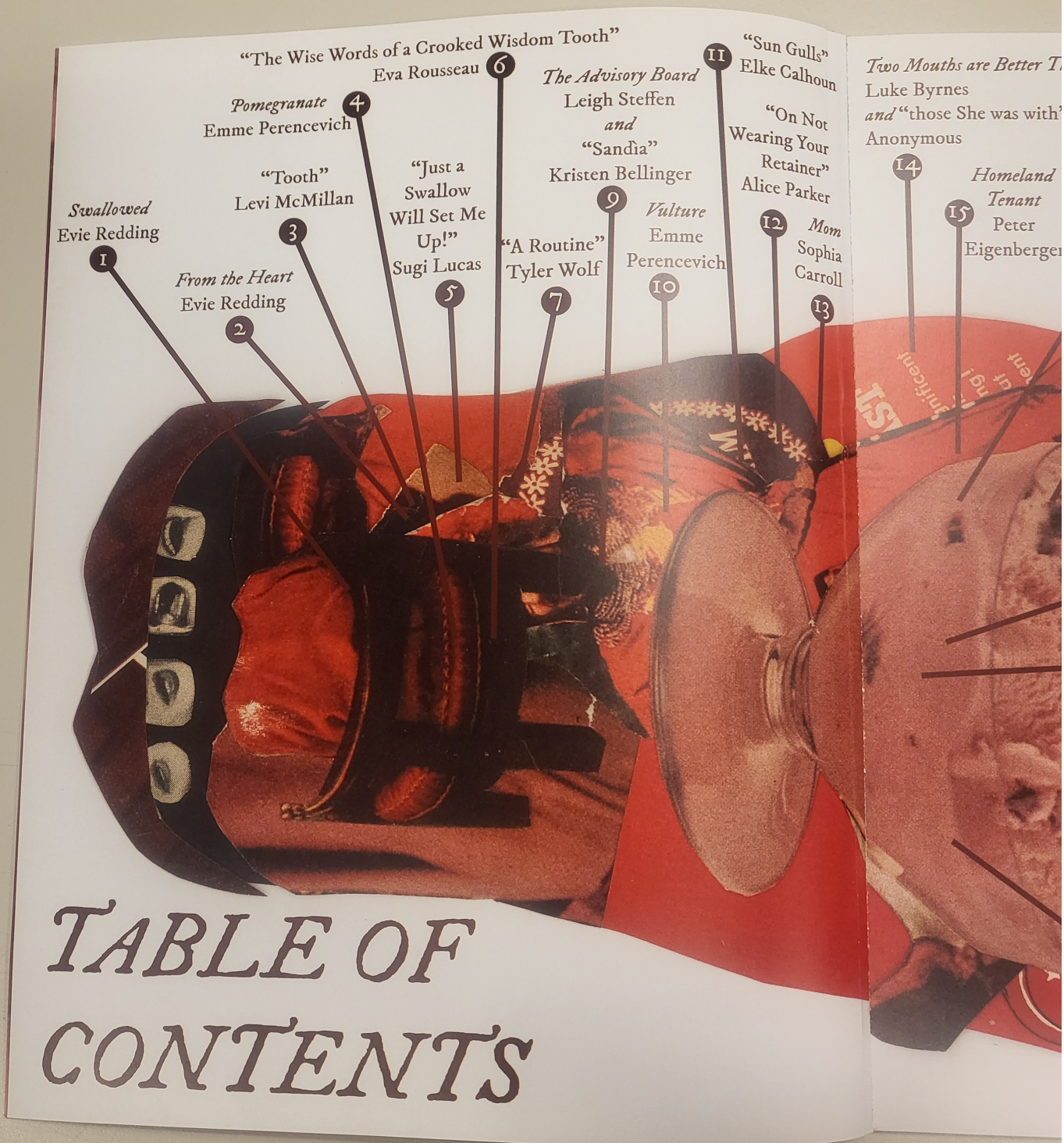


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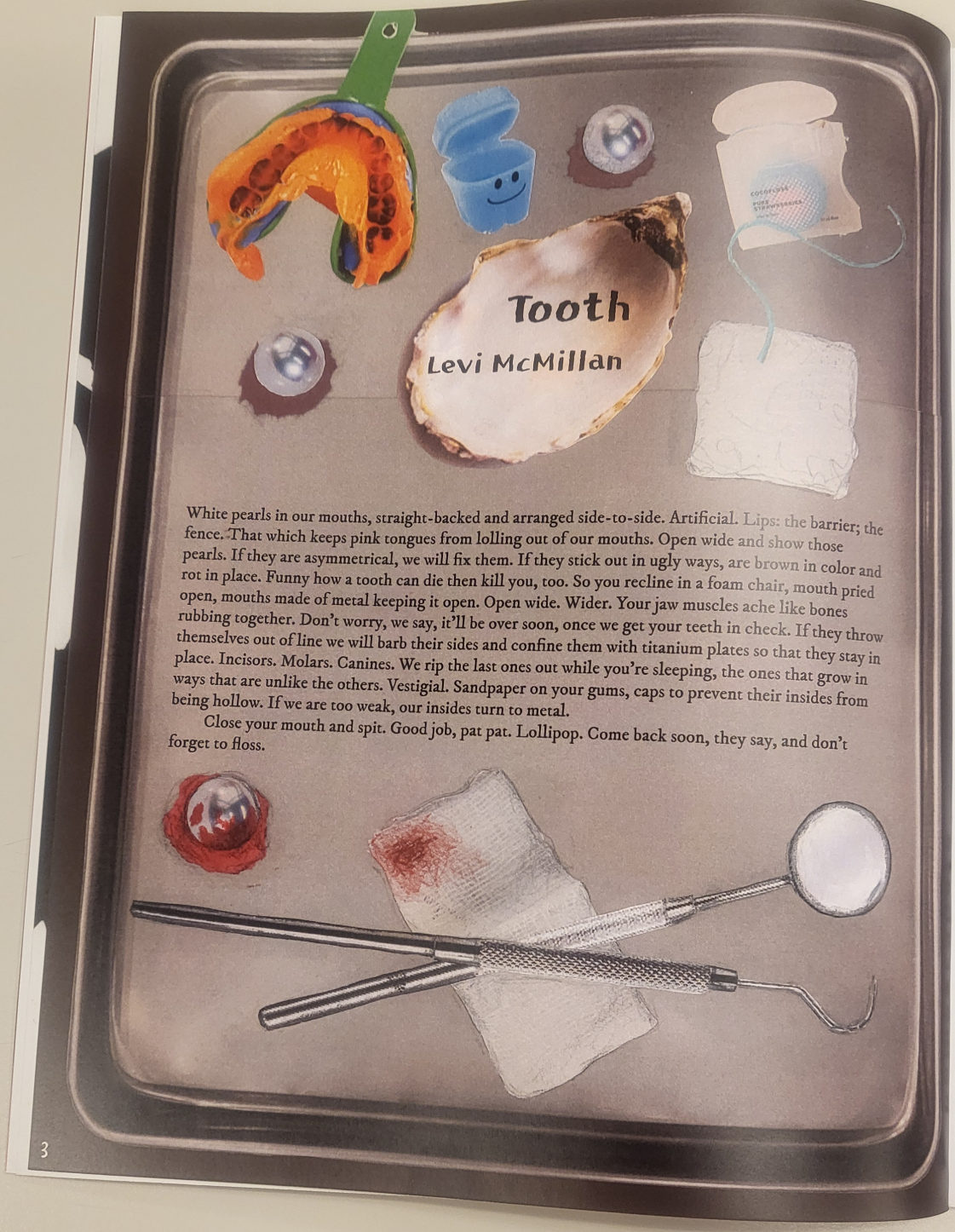
Evie Redding

Swallowed






From the
Heart



White pearls in our mouths, straight-backed and arranged side-to-side. Artificial. Lips: the barrier; the fence. That which keeps pink tongues from lolling out of our mouths. Open wide and show those pearls. If they are asymmetrical, we will fix them. If they stick out in ugly ways, are brown in color and rot in place. Funny how a tooth can die then kill you, too. So you recline in a foam chair, mouth pried open, mouths made of metal keeping it open. Open wide. Wider. Your jaw muscles ache like bones rubbing together. Don't worry, we say, it'll be over soon, once we get your teeth in check. If they throw themselves out of line we will barb their sides and confine them with titanium plates so that they stay in place. Incisors. Molars. Canines. We rip the last ones out while you're sleeping, the ones that grow in ways that are unlike the others. Vestigial. Sandpaper on your gums, caps to prevent their insides from being hollow. If we are too weak, our insides turn to metal.

Close your mouth and spit. Good job, pat pat. Lollipop. Come back soon, they say, and don't forget to floss.