

Daughters of Man

Author's Statement

This piece was written for 76-247 Shakespeare Comedies and Romances taught by Professor Stephen Wittek. We were given the option to write a creative writing piece about the Globe Theatre from the perspective of Shakespeare's time period, and at the time I had been revisiting the xenofiction literary genre - a type of speculative fiction that focuses on non-human perspectives, such as *Watership Down* or the *Warriors* children's series. I thought I would approach the piece in a more surreal direction via imagining the Globe through the eyes of an animal rather than a human. I had considered a rat, but I settled on the pigeon as it's both a symbol of divinity and vulgarity in popular culture.

I'm really drawn to the interplay between sublime and base concepts. Many of my favorite artworks and stories are vague enough they could stand for something really profound or something really crude, and I think Shakespeare is the same - it wouldn't be Shakespeare if the writing was *just* one way or the other. I think that ultimately it's that intersection that makes us what we are - as Terry Pratchett once said, humans are "the place where the falling angel meets the rising ape".

- Ursula Sturgeon