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A Dark Side

Gilbert Hu

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What I Paid to be a Model

Trexiea Hernandez

I will be a star even
If it kills me.

I think of nothing but **AMBITION!**
FAME!
BEAUTY!

But I underestimated
How much
'Against all cost' actually costs:

\$5,000 For test shots and headshots

\$75 A pop to learn how to walk

X 5

\$375 Because "a pretty face
with a gaudy gait
won't do"

\$4,000 Charged by my agency
to book a show

The money from it,
I have yet to see.

Instead, I drudge home in
The dress I strut in hours before
In lieu of money.

How do I tell them that
I can't ingest tulle and crystal?
That sequins can't pay for my bills.
You can't.

So I don't.

But hey, at least it sparkles
even when it sits
On the only other chair in my apartment.



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I like to hold it
When I'm starving **fasting**
To lose 35 pounds **prep**
For the shoot in two weeks.

It reminds me of what I need to be.

I need to be a diamond:
Glittering
Shiny
Beautiful
Indestructible

But what if
I'm just *ugly ugly UGLY*
ugly
coal:
Lumpy and dirty
And weak.
I have to be a star
If
I don't
it will kill me.