

# Forces

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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.



**A Dark Side** Gilbert Hu

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.