

# i was a teenage caricature

mk zariel

2025

is the might of restraint closing in on me simply  
a problem of synaesthesia? of this Autistic mind making life  
hellish for its inhabitant—or is this unshakable weight  
about statism? apparently the control industry &  
gatekeepers well versed in verbal bandages  
in therapy speak, conditioning into agony  
are the ones to ask—am i the weird one?

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it must be easy to call me the problem  
troubled teen caricature, flickering in and out of  
the public imagination—to upend all control must be  
a dream of supposed insurgents at 1 a.m.  
and you prescribe me deep breaths and sunlight

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forced smiles, affirmations by google  
but what if it was control that made us sick?  
to be closed in, repressed, gendered by the suffocating—  
do not simply recommend us artificial oxygen  
but release your grip,  
and let our trans bodies breathe.

mk zariel (it/its) is a transmasculine poet, theater artist, movement journalist, & insurrectionary anarchist. it is fueled by folk-punk, Emma Goldman, and existential dread. it can be found online at [linktr.ee/mkzariel](https://linktr.ee/mkzariel), creating conflictually queer-anarchic spaces, and being mildly feral in the great lakes region. it is kinda gay, ngl.

# fifth Estate

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