

## The Bump

Maiken Møller-Andersen

My grandmother blamed it on me being on the phone too much, my spine shaping badly because I had my head down. I do not think it is only the phone's fault, I did not have it glued to my hand like others.

Still, I pawned my phone, but the lump did not disappear. I began removing items that made me bend my head down in hopes of fixing my fucked-up bump. This included not using the lower shelves and some rather uncomfortable sleeping without a pillow to keep myself completely straight.

I had just booked my first chiropractic appointment to get it looked at. That night, though, I found myself staring at it in the mirror. Suspecting it had grown even larger. Taking a deep breath, I watched as the pulsating lump crept down my neck and spine, two eyes peering out and looking back at me.

**Maiken Møller-Andersen** is a graduate student at UND studying English. Born and raised in Norway, they loved the ocean as a child, growing more and more curious about what they could never see from the surface. Maiken took a huge interest in folklore and storytelling at a young age, and their favorite fairytale is King Valemon. They also really like scary stories, which is one of the inspirations for their flash fiction.