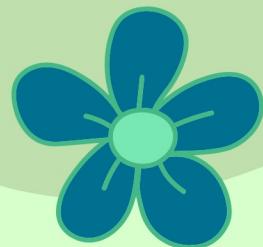


# Wildflower Post

*Newsletter*



## TODAY'S WRITER

### *Jane Helen Lee*

Jane Helen Lee is a Korean-American writer currently based in Seoul, South Korea. She has been recognized by YoungArts and the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for her work across screenwriting, poetry, and fiction and is an alum of the Kenyon Young Writers' Workshop. She also serves as Editor-in-Chief of Unseen, the academic journal of the Korean Youth Honor Society, and finds joy in writing, debating, and volunteering at her local rehabilitation center.

# (un)proper

JANE HELEN LEE

Who knew  
knees could carry  
such scandal.

For an unsexy girl  
barely brushing 100 lbs,  
all angles, unadorned—

I am a distraction.

Never mind the boy who  
peels off his shirt mid-class—  
sweat sneering, careless on his back.

no one blinks.

the teacher carries on.

but when my skirt grazes too close  
to an invisible line someone drew,  
I am older than I am.

Sent home, written up, erased.

*Not proper.*

*Proper?*

they tell us rules are neutral,  
but I watch them bend like reeds.

I wonder what it teaches us—

to know our knees are scandalous,  
that our collarbones demand correction,

while bare chests laugh  
snorting chalk dust.

outside, the wind lifts every leaf  
without asking  
if it is too much,  
or too little

*There, fixed.*

