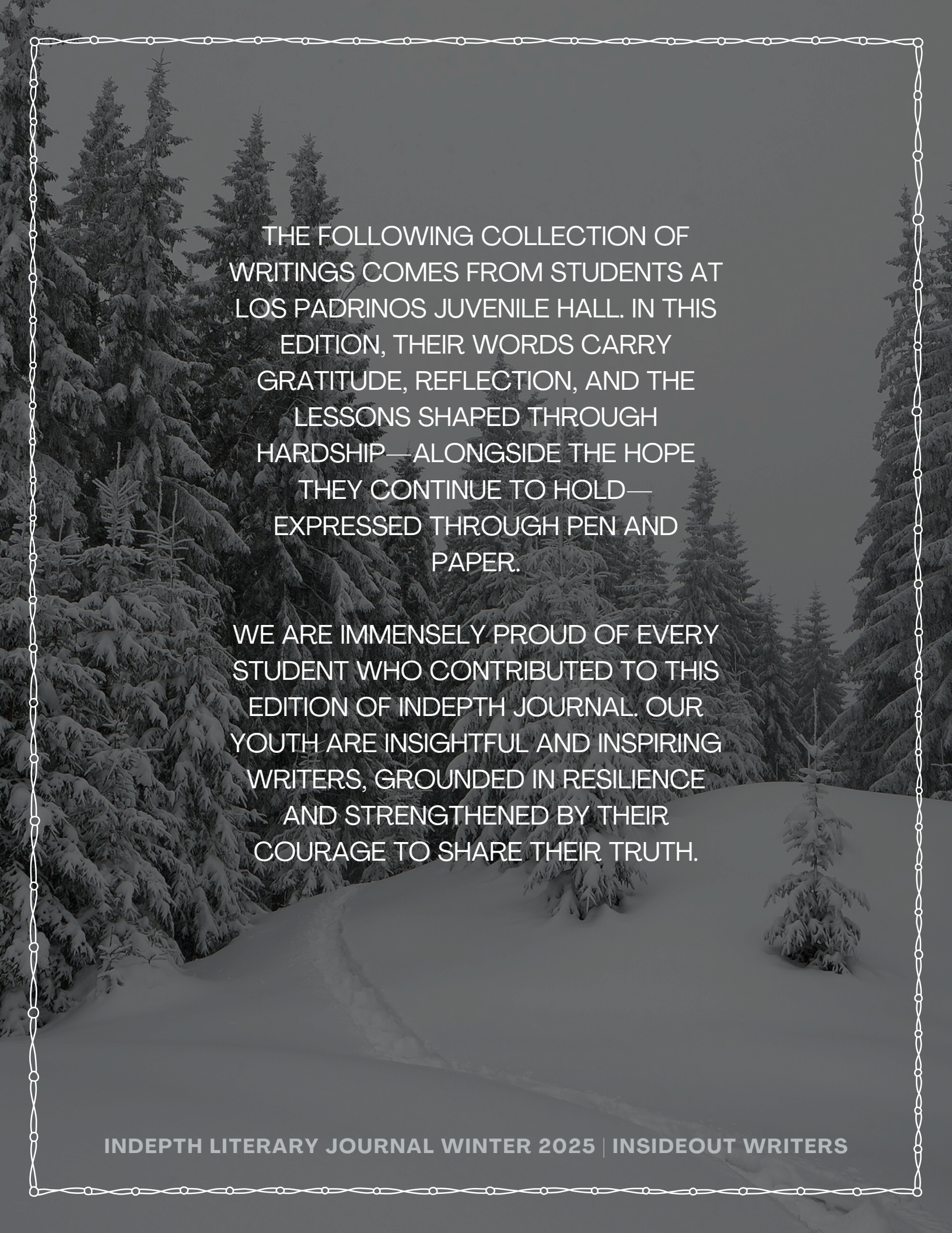




INDEPTH

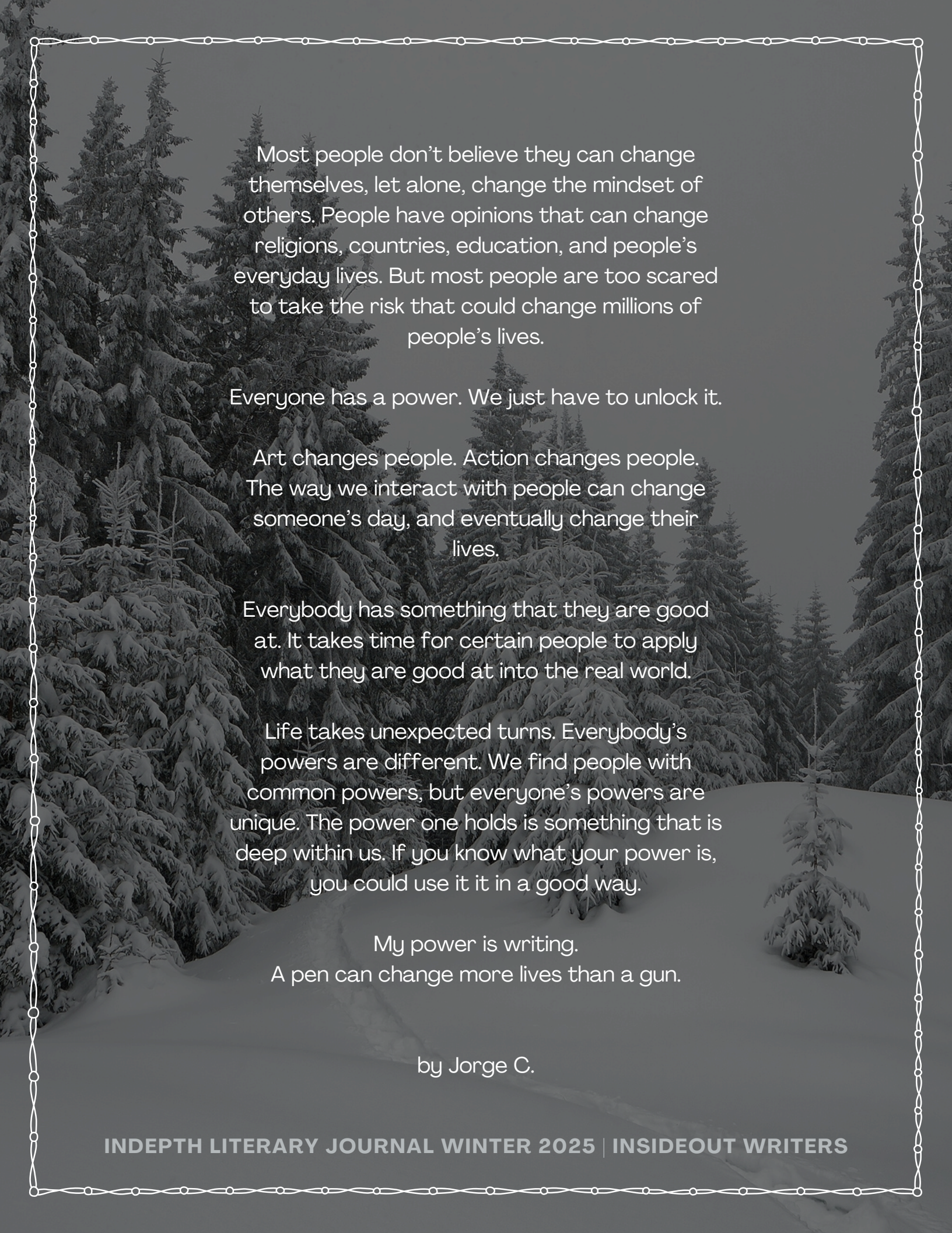
Winter
2025

INSIDEOUT WRITERS



THE FOLLOWING COLLECTION OF WRITINGS COMES FROM STUDENTS AT LOS PADRINOS JUVENILE HALL. IN THIS EDITION, THEIR WORDS CARRY GRATITUDE, REFLECTION, AND THE LESSONS SHAPED THROUGH HARDSHIP—ALONGSIDE THE HOPE THEY CONTINUE TO HOLD—EXPRESSED THROUGH PEN AND PAPER.

WE ARE IMMENSELY PROUD OF EVERY STUDENT WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS EDITION OF INDEPTH JOURNAL. OUR YOUTH ARE INSIGHTFUL AND INSPIRING WRITERS, GROUNDED IN RESILIENCE AND STRENGTHENED BY THEIR COURAGE TO SHARE THEIR TRUTH.



Most people don't believe they can change themselves, let alone, change the mindset of others. People have opinions that can change religions, countries, education, and people's everyday lives. But most people are too scared to take the risk that could change millions of people's lives.

Everyone has a power. We just have to unlock it.

Art changes people. Action changes people. The way we interact with people can change someone's day, and eventually change their lives.

Everybody has something that they are good at. It takes time for certain people to apply what they are good at into the real world.

Life takes unexpected turns. Everybody's powers are different. We find people with common powers, but everyone's powers are unique. The power one holds is something that is deep within us. If you know what your power is, you could use it in a good way.

My power is writing.
A pen can change more lives than a gun.

by Jorge C.



ROADMAP TO CHANGE

One experience that taught me something important was not leaving someone alone when they're at rock bottom. I connect more with gratitude for my experiences because they made me who I am, and I know I'm a good person. We all make mistakes, and that's it. Really, it's all about how you deal with it. My experience helped me change by teaching me who I am; it showed me to do good for myself and my family and to evolve. I am who I am because of my choices, and in time, I've learned to make better choices.

My experience made me think differently about how tough times can lead to wrong choices, and I grew up in a tight situation. If someone is hurting, I want to support them because I can relate. If you think strong, then you are strong; if you think positive, then you are positive. I believe experience is connected to change because we all have choices—it's on you to change. We all do what we want to do. I'm the type to never give up. Even if I go through hard times with someone, I'll be patient.

by Zachariah C.



I am not just an alleged killer or gang member.

I am also a father, a son, a grandson, a big brother to 7, a little brother to 3.

People see a hoodlum or a danger to society,

but they don't see a young Black adult who is trying to thrive,

to be more and not fall victim to the cycle like other people, even though they're not bad people.

I've been through a lot of struggle—seeing death at a very young age, drug abuse, substance use every day—but I am who I am today because of it, and I'm not mad about it. It is what it is.

I'm proud to say it, and I'm still subjected to other people's opinions, but honestly, I don't care.

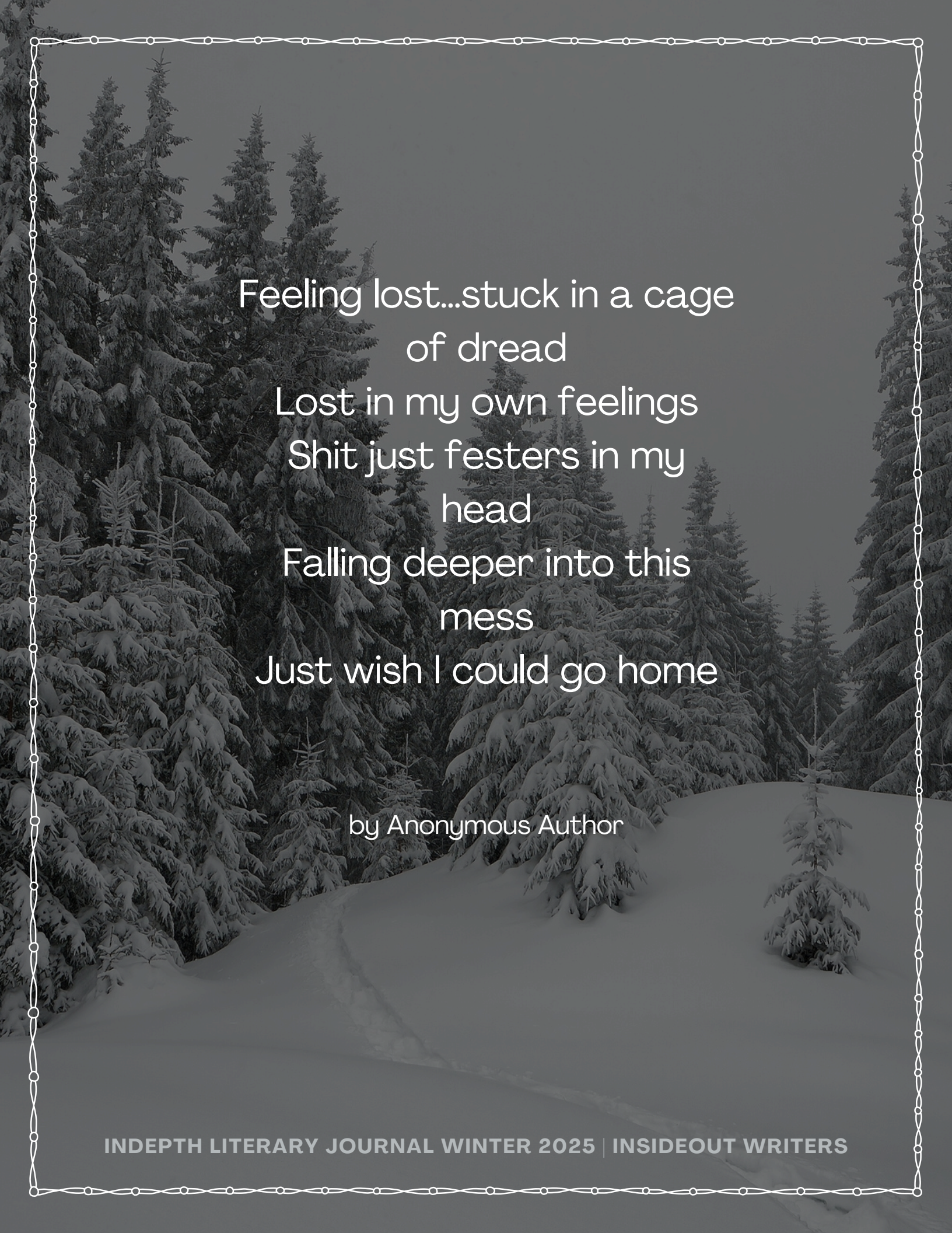
by Dravon T.



STILL I RISE

Sitting here stuck, incarcerated.
In a loop of thoughts, my mind
stays racing
As human beings, we all make
mistakes
Like a train on a track, that's
been derailed
A reason for it all, it must be
fate
I've reached rock bottom but
I still prevail

by Q.H.



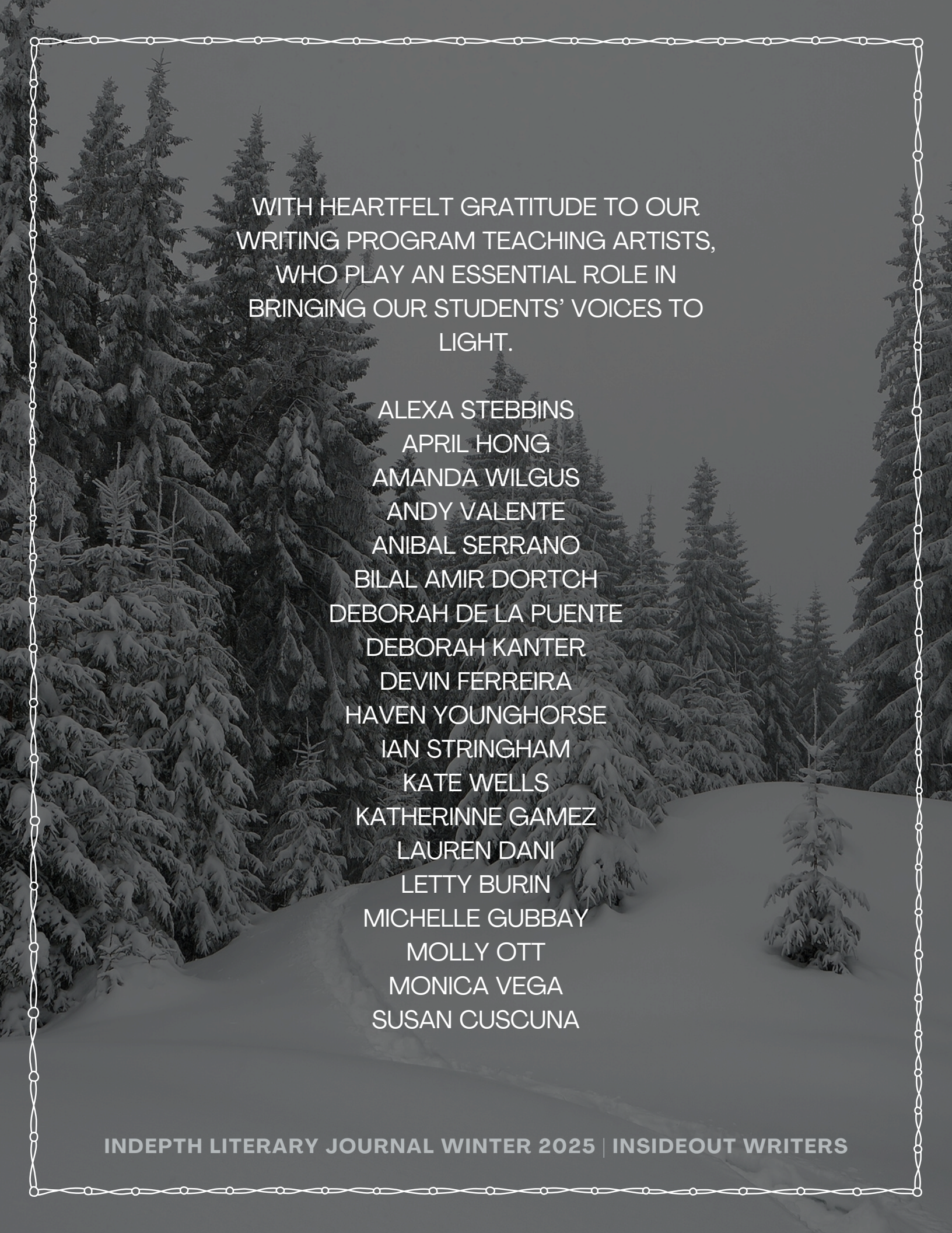
Feeling lost...stuck in a cage
of dread

Lost in my own feelings
Shit just festers in my
head

Falling deeper into this
mess

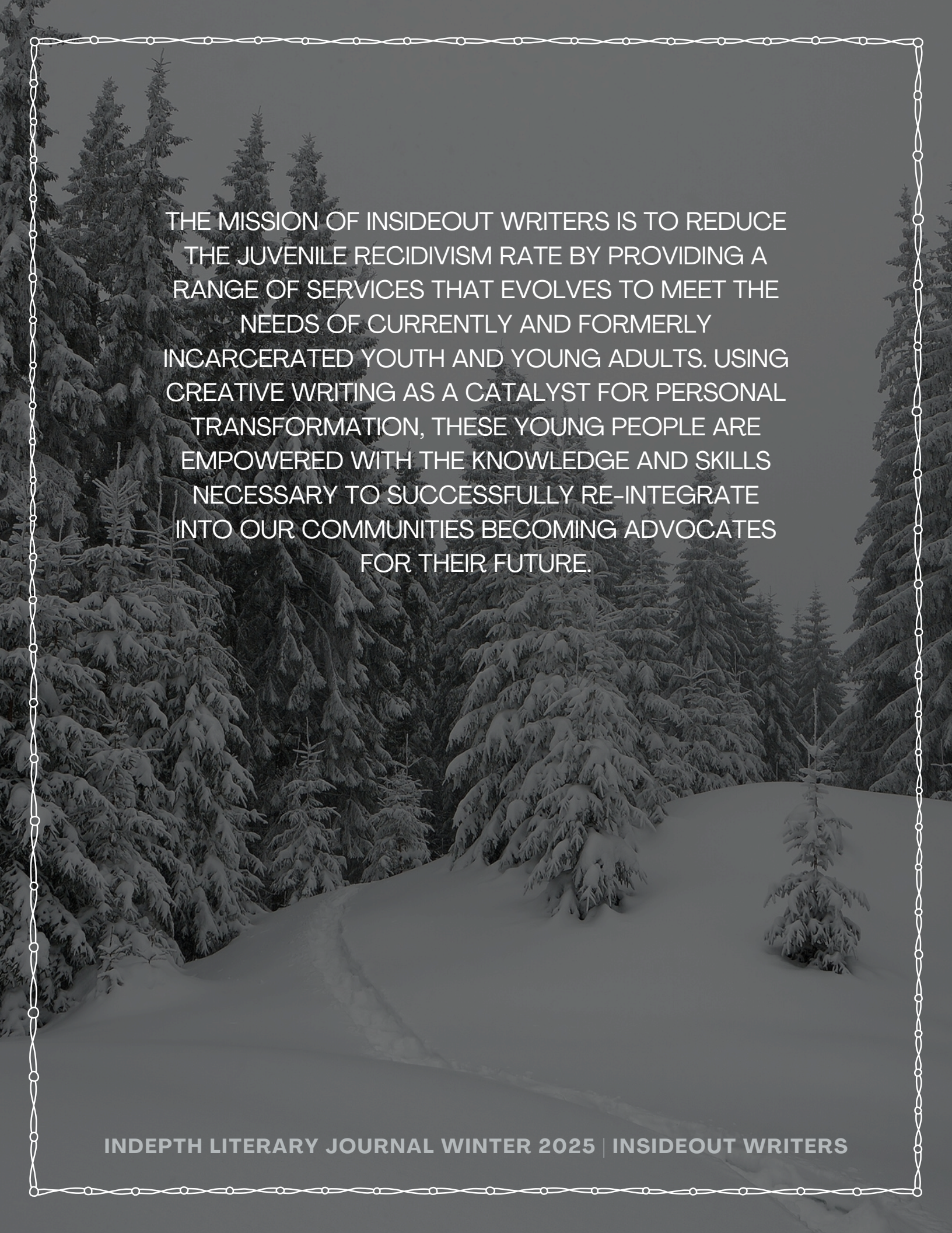
Just wish I could go home

by Anonymous Author



WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO OUR
WRITING PROGRAM TEACHING ARTISTS,
WHO PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN
BRINGING OUR STUDENTS' VOICES TO
LIGHT.

ALEXA STEBBINS
APRIL HONG
AMANDA WILGUS
ANDY VALENTE
ANIBAL SERRANO
BILAL AMIR DORTCH
DEBORAH DE LA PUENTE
DEBORAH KANTER
DEVIN FERREIRA
HAVEN YOUNGHORSE
IAN STRINGHAM
KATE WELLS
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MOLLY OTT
MONICA VEGA
SUSAN CUSCUNA



THE MISSION OF INSIDEOUT WRITERS IS TO REDUCE THE JUVENILE RECIDIVISM RATE BY PROVIDING A RANGE OF SERVICES THAT EVOLVES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CURRENTLY AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS. USING CREATIVE WRITING AS A CATALYST FOR PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION, THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EMPOWERED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NECESSARY TO SUCCESSFULLY RE-INTEGRATE INTO OUR COMMUNITIES BECOMING ADVOCATES FOR THEIR FUTURE.



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