


PILL

STORY BY CAROLYN SUPINKA

ART BY LUCY COMER

FACTORY



I have been working at this pill factory all morning. Nobody can afford the pills, but that's not why nobody buys them. Nobody buys them because we hide them after we make them. I am the best pill hider in the factory. I know where they will blend in, how to camouflage pills in the world. I tucked three under the roots of the swiss cheese plant in the yoga studio. One I zipped away in the soft red pocket of your sweater. I glued at least twenty to the speckled counter tile in the bathroom, where their little comma shapes are lost among the grime and spatter of water. I am bitter because though I am the best hider of pills, you are the best maker of pills. I am a bitter pill and you are a busy pill. I don't know what you do at the factory. You get up when I do and walk through the door, singing. I know you don't like to talk about work, but I'd like to talk about something real for once. I am a bitter pill to swallow, but my bitterness, as the pill advertisements will tell you, is a sign of my effectiveness. You can taste the sour medicine of my skin. You often taste the sour medicine of my skin. You might have manufactured the sour medicine of my skin. Lying on the couch after a long day, after you've walked back through the door, singing, I hide a pill under your tongue. **Does it still count as hiding if I know where it is,** you ask with a pill under your tongue. **Yes,** I tell you. **This isn't about you.**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carolyn Supinka is a writer and visual artist from Indiana, Pennsylvania. She is currently based in Portland, Oregon. She received her MFA in poetry from Oregon State University in 2019. Her work can be seen in *Hobart*, *DIAGRAM*, *The Indianapolis Review*, *The Shore*, and *SUSAN/The Journal*.

To view more of her work, check out her website at cargocollective.com/carolynsupinka or follow her on Twitter @CarolynSupinka.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

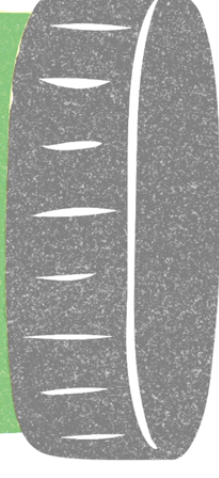
Lucy Comer is an illustrator based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her work focuses on stories of longing, intimacy, and heartache. She loves creating portraits, sequential illustrations, and zines.

She received her BFA in Illustration from Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 2019. Her work has been featured in print and online publications such as Nearness Project and *My Girlfriend: From the Legends*.

Her work can be found at lucycomer.com and on Instagram @loosey.comber.

"I KNOW WHERE THEY
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Carolyn Supinka,
"Pill Factory"



"Pill Factory"
by Carolyn Supinka
Illustrations by Lucy Comer

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