

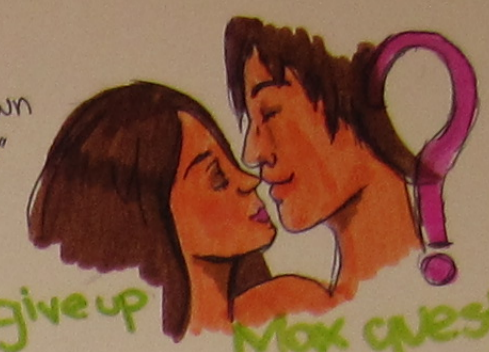


Acceptance

not burn man's fault that he got burned

you can't control the unexpected things in your life but you can control the way you think about your life.

"Now I'm the clown outside Bed of Roses"



burn man getting burned

Andy
Helen
Priscilla
Chris
Kaitlin

life is unfair

burn man doesn't give up

still goes out instead of staying home

Max questions his sexuality

"... and I swear I want to move away, but my leg stays put."

unexpected things can happen anywhere

"And kind of beautiful in an unexpected way."

both accept themselves for who they are
"I am a product of light, of hope"

people fear burn man's disfigurement.

"Pedestrians hate me, fear me"



STAY AWAY FROM ME!

"After stepping my Rikos on seventeen feet"
Max was brave enough to face Ruby-Doo

Bravery / Courage

burn man jokes about his condition

"Hey, dudes, I'm not a mime. Different union."



Differences

people don't notice Max's differences

gay

"... the animal looks normal... add some ultraviolet light and the thing glows an eerie fluorescent green"



Judgemental

people notice Burn Man's differences

disfigured

we live in a judgemental society

judged by appearances

by ourselves

"Then I feel totally disgusted. At myself for hurting Ruby-Doo"



Unique

"I began to refer to myself in the third person, as a double: Burn Man"

burn man disconnects himself from society because of his differences

burn man is lonely and helpless



Symbolism

max looks normal
glowing guinea pig



change
burn man's new life
"I'm waking from sleep into my new life" ... my new life on fire."

Fear

Max fears himself because of his sexuality

"... pedestrians avoid my eyes"

Burn man is feared by people his sexuality is the only thing we can't see

Conflict

person vs person
"The right Riko I whip across the court... smacking him hard in the face"

fears himself



"I try to think, I try to stay calm. I try to be logical."

Max struggles with his sexuality



person vs Self

person vs Society

"I slide that sucker down the hall with such force it smacks against the back wall"