

DAY 20 | Motif: In the room

TITLE | "Spirit Crusher"

MEDIA | Canson Cold Press, Watercolor, Micro Pen

SIZE | 8 x 10

By Kim Anderson

#FEBCHALLENGE19

As a child, I dreaded the yearly visit to "the room" in a room. "The room" is what I call the "Spirit Crusher". It measured my auditorial status to confirm my continued failure of attaining the "hearing" privilege. It ingrained into my psyche that I am a failure as a Deaf human being. This room was training me to get rid of my Deaf spirit at all cost, even to fake hearing a beep! There was nothing motivational about being reminded that there's still no progress, no improvements towards the coveted "hearing" privilege. I was to keep trying year after year. What a spirit crusher. What the audist system was missing right in front of them was how much more important my intelligence was (the big rose on my head as my brain). The audist system didn't care about improving and testing my knowledge, they let it all go to waste (represented as the petals on the floor) for the coveted "hearing" privilege. Why bother testing when I will always have the spirit of being Deaf and will never be "hearing"? It wasn't until many years later, as an adult, it dawned on me the purpose for auditorial testing over and over. The "Spirit Crusher" was a profit-making machine. It falsely gave hope to my mother, a single mother with four children on a limited budget, for improvements with a better, powerful, and stronger aid to attain the hearing privilege. She and my grandfather would spend thousands on getting the best privilege attainment aid available again and again. What a rip off.

It's time to stop focusing on the coveted auditorial privilege. It's time to shift the focus to the visual privilege so that a Deaf child can soar as a coveted Deaf human being.