Punishing architecture can be constructed as a cage—a structure of containment. To be contained compels dwellers to learn a new behavior—I depend on these walls.

This drawing is illustrating a narrative about a trapped being who struggles to overcome a haunting dream, which has become a reality.

“My hope begins to slip away into spaces illuminated with contempt and emptiness, and the dying fire inside me starts a burning panic. The walls of this place remain tall and strong, and like my dream, they are stifling and block out the light I desperately crave. The looming, opaque darkness eventually seeps in and replaces my dwindling light. A sudden great divide has formed between where I am and where I need to be, and I know not how to unlock the passageway to refuge.

The climb has proved too high for me today, and I retreat into the darkness I have come to know so well. The doors to my optimism have been shut and locked with the key hidden away in the vast void of ambition. I only hope my dream will let me rest so I can begin again tomorrow. I hope I can unlock the doors that keep me here. As long as the light is there, I will reach for it. Tomorrow... I will try again tomorrow.”