

## **JOE NICHOLAS from “How the Caterpillar Made it Over the Mountain”**

He bit his lip and screamed as everyone else's mouths went to kiss where it hurt. It felt like love and it didn't feel like anything. When it was over everyone washed each other's hands in the fountain. The moon could barely be called a moon. The stars were on their lunch break. He stood alone in the dark and counted how many breaths 'til dawn. It turned out to be 11 which he thought was not quite enough. When everyone returned it was as if they never left. He could feel his teeth growing anxious again so he put them in his pocket for luck.

**Joe Nicholas** (AKA Dirty 4 String Orchestra, AKA 34RTHCH1LDR3N) is an amorphous blob and author of *Street Monk* (Bottlecap Press 2015). Their work can be found or is forthcoming in *alien mouth*, *Be About It*, *Fog Machine*, *Queen Mob's Tea House*, *Souvenir Lit* and other wonderful publications. They can be found at [8rainCh1ld.tk](http://8rainCh1ld.tk).