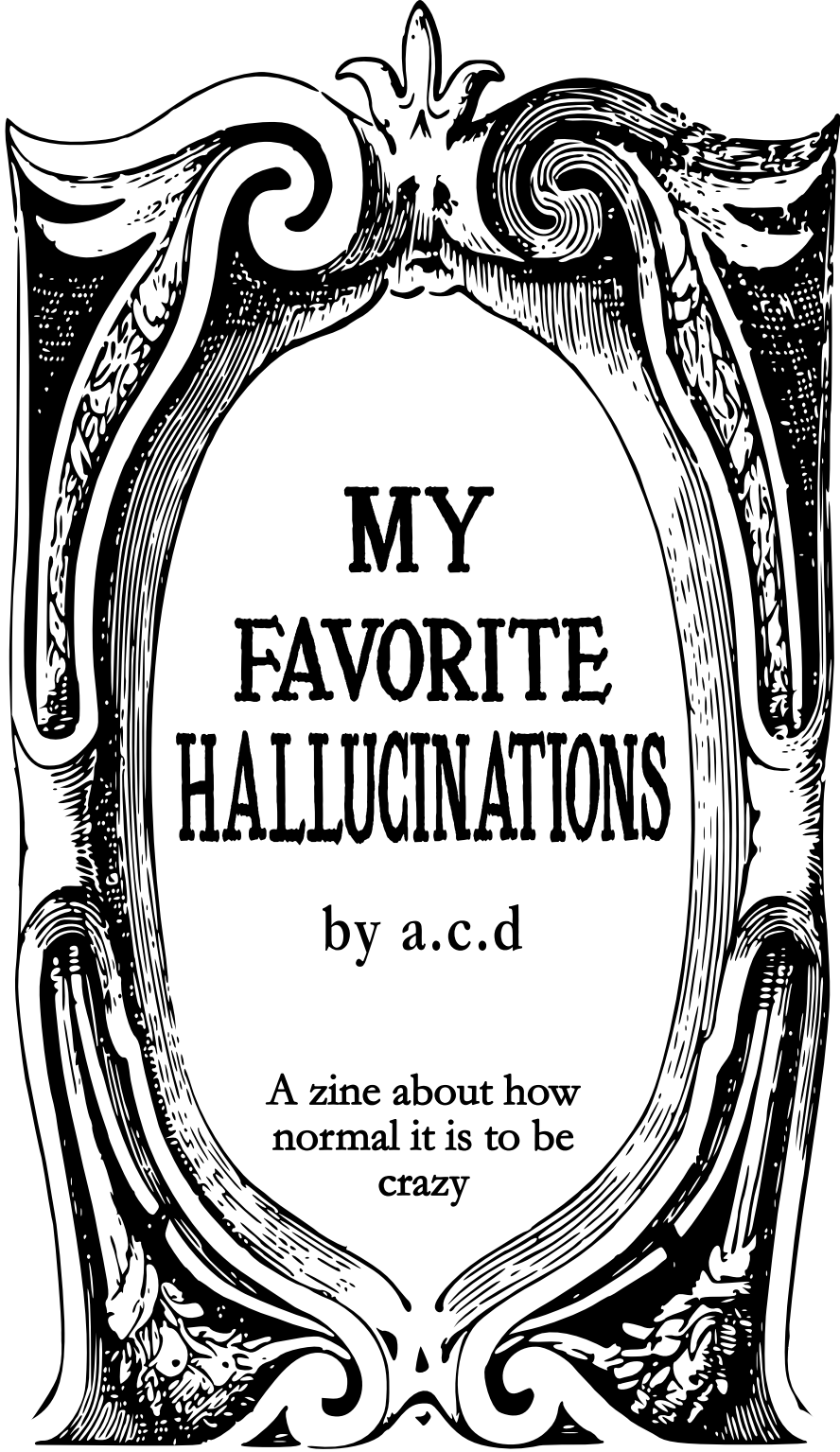
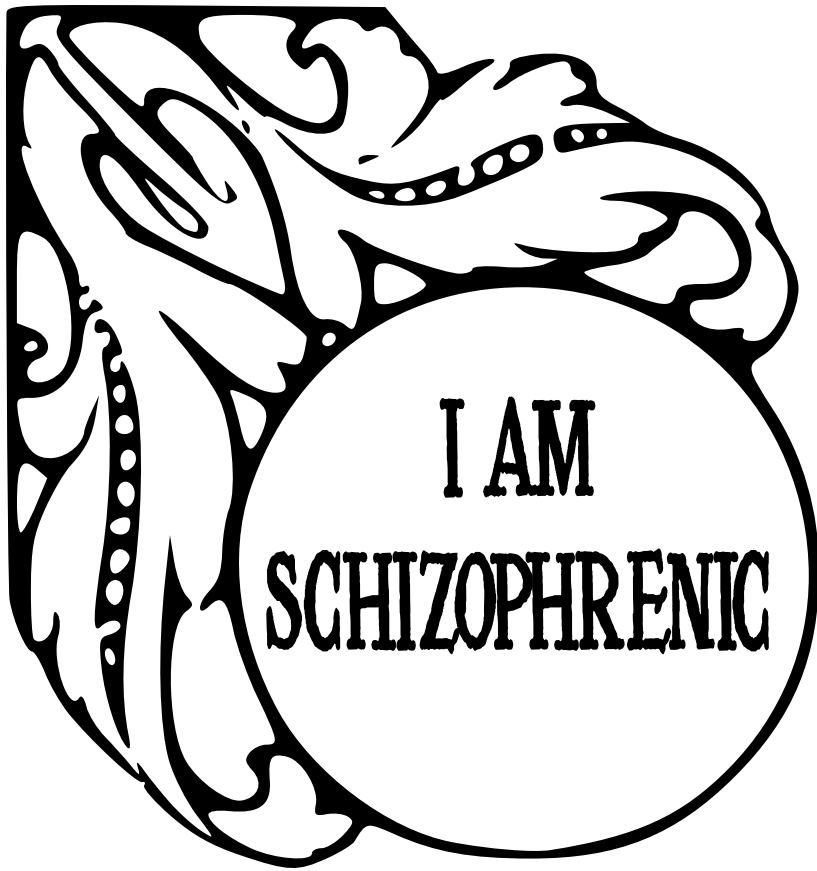




MY FAVORITE HALLUCINATIONS

by a.c.d

A zine about how
normal it is to be
crazy



I hallucinate regularly. Not every day and not all the time, but enough. Sometimes it's scary. Usually it's not. People assume every hallucination must be right out of a horror movie. Sure, I've had my fair share of horror movie hallucinations, but most of the time, they're just strange. Some of them are even cool.



THANK YOU

To my loved ones, who have heard all of these stories before

You can find more of my work at

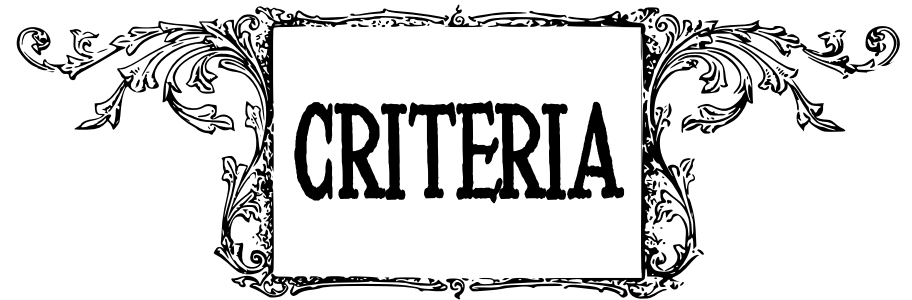
ACD. WORKS



And to those who don't hallucinate and therefore have nothing to rank: that sucks for you. You should work on that.

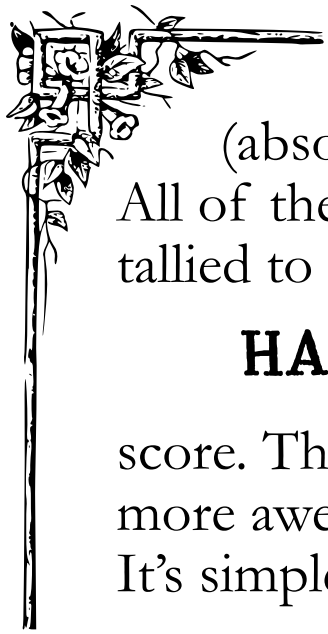


Which is why I've decided to rank them.



What makes a good hallucination? Schizophrenic scientists have wondered for years. I'm here to provide definitive guidelines on behalf of all schizophrenic people. Yes, every single one of them. The schizophrenic monolith has spoken.

I will evaluate nine of my many hallucinations based on the following criteria. Each hallucination will receive a rank from **1** (barely anything) to **5**



(absolutely bursting with It).
All of the individual ranks will be
tallied to create a final

HALLUCINAWESOME

score. The higher the score, the
more awesome the hallucination.
It's simple math.

UNIQUENESS – How common is
this sensation? Have I encountered it
before? Will I ever encounter it again?

RATIONALITY – Does it follow
some internal logic? Can I parse what
it's trying to be? Is it obvious that it's
a hallucination?

MAGIC – Does it ignite my sense of
whimsy? Of wonder? Is it something
out of a storybook?



My hallucinations have brought
me joy, pain, and everything in between.
Most importantly, they make my life
much more interesting. Now that you
know the **HALLUCINAWESOME** scale,
you too can rank your hallucinations as
all schizophrenic people do. I'm sure any
schizophrenic person you meet will
recognize it immediately (as long as
they're getting the newsletters).

RATIONALITY: 2

Not a lot of reasonable explanations for a demon goat.

MAGIC: 5

Someone must've messed up a summoning circle.

FEAR FACTOR: 3

The scariest part was the fire. My neighborhood was dry and grassy; we stood no chance if it spread.

STORYTELLING: 5

Who doesn't love a wicked, burning goat?



HALLUCINAWESOME SCORE

FEAR FACTOR – Is it scary? Do I hate it? Do I want it to go far, far away?

STORYTELLING – Is it going to make a good anecdote? Will my friends *oooh* and *awww* when I share it with them? Will strangers on the internet think it's neat?



HALLUCINATION #1



HALLUCINATIONS



HELL DEMON DEVIL GOAT

A giant goat with shaggy brown fur actively on fire on my neighbor's lawn. Even without its horns, it easily stood taller than an SUV and it had a pentacle glowing in the center of its forehead. One of the first things I ever hallucinated.

UNIQUENESS: 4

I can firmly say I've never seen anything like it since.

RATIONALITY: 3

I knew exactly why he was there, but there was something off about the situation.

MAGIC: 5

He felt like an entity older and more powerful than I could conceptualize.

FEAR FACTOR: 2

No matter what happened, I knew he was there to help.

STORYTELLING: 5

I'm planning to get a tattoo of him one day. A good story indeed.



HALLUCINAWESOME SCORE

HALLUCINATION #9



FLICKERING LIGHTS

The lights in whatever room I'm in flickering once or twice before returning to normal. The only indication that this is a hallucination is the complete lack of reaction or understanding when I ask others in the room about it.

UNIQUENESS: 1

Been there, seen that, got the t-shirt. Nothing weird about flickering lights.

RATIONALITY: 4

Not only very possible, but also very easy to explain away.

MAGIC: 2

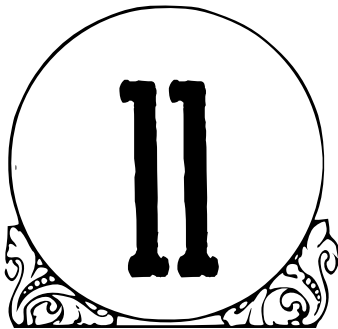
Nothing magical about a brief power outage.

FEAR FACTOR: 2

Only scary as long as I'm in the dark.

STORYTELLING: 2

Difficult to make into an entertaining anecdote.



HALLUCINAWESOME SCORE

HALLUCINATION #2



THE CAT

A tall, thin black cat with a Cheshire grin and bright green eyes who protected me at my worst. I saw him many times, sure that he was keeping me safe from otherworldly beings trying to steal my eyes. And it worked; no one ever took my eyes from me.

UNIQUENESS: 3

Loses points because of how often I see cats outside. Gains points for being quite strange-looking.

RATIONALITY: 3

Although they aren't usually confined to a single room...

MAGIC: 3

Could be magic, could be climate change.

FEAR FACTOR: 4

Getting caught in a spontaneous natural disaster is not worth \$12/hour

STORYTELLING: 4

At least four times more interesting than a regular work story.



HALLUCINAWESOME SCORE

HALLUCINATION #8



THE BUGS™

Unidentifiable bugs crawling all over my skin. Sometimes these bugs go underneath my skin, but mostly they stay on the surface and feel unpleasant. The more upset I am, the more bugs torment me.

UNIQUENESS: 1

A very common hallucination of a very common creature. Bugs are everywhere!

RATIONALITY: 3

Is it possible that a bug is crawling on me?

Yes. Is it possible that a swarm of bugs are crawling on me? A little less likely but still yes.

MAGIC: 1

I love all of the Earth's creatures but I don't think bugs are magical.

FEAR FACTOR: 5

GET THEM AWAY FROM ME!!!

STORYTELLING: 2

It's hard to make something that causes so much genuine distress into a fun story to tell at parties.



HALLUCINAWESOME SCORE

HALLUCINATION #3



INCREDIBLY LOCALIZED EARTHQUAKE

For about half a minute, the room I was in at the children's museum I worked at experienced an earthquake. The walls shook and parts of the floor cracked open. Then it was over.

UNIQUENESS: 3

I've never personally been in an earthquake but they do happen sometimes.

MAGIC: 3

Considering I was actively alive, it would've been quite a feat without magic.

FEAR FACTOR: 5

Surprisingly, the suicidal teenager imagining her own dead body did not make her feel better.

STORYTELLING: 3

Less of a funny haha story and more of a "isn't that (pardon the pun) crazy?" story.



HALLUCINAWESOME SCORE

HALLUCINATION #7



PERNICIOUS PETITION PLOT

As I was trying to sign a petition to put abortion on the ballot in Florida, the person who gave me the petition started discussing their evil plan to trick everyone on the street into signing an abortion ban into law. It wasn't until I'd dropped their clipboard and ran away that I realized their plotting wasn't real.

UNIQUENESS: 3

It's not every day that I hallucinate full villain monologues, but it's not impossible.

RATIONALITY: 4

I would believe conservative folks in Florida are furthering an evil plot to ban abortion

MAGIC: 2

It didn't exactly inspire wonder.

FEAR FACTOR: 3

The idea was scary but I knew we would win.

STORYTELLING: 2

An embarrassing story. I ran away from a nice person trying to codify abortion rights in Florida. It wasn't a good look.



HALLUCINAWESOME SCORE

HALLUCINATION #4



MY OWN DEAD BODY

My own dead body, hanging off the bathroom door of the psych ward from a noose made of bed sheets. At the time, I worried it was prophetic, but years later I'm still here!

UNIQUENESS: 2

Yeah yeah the suicidal teenager imagines her own dead body. Yawn.

RATIONALITY: 3

It definitely could've happened. But it didn't!

RATIONALITY: 2

Not sure why a beautiful otherworldly fox would decide to appear on the interstate of all places.

MAGIC: 4

What else would it be?!?

FEAR FACTOR: 1

No fear, only wonder.

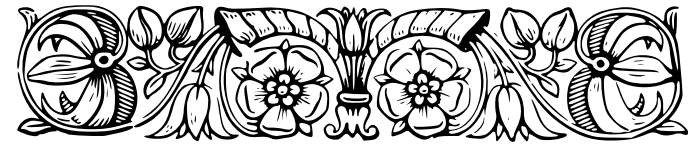
STORYTELLING: 4

I've milked this story for all its worth.



HALLUCINAWESOME SCORE

HALLUCINATION #6



ROBOTIC DISTRESS

Beeps, boops, and other distinctly electronic noises that sound straight out of a sci-fi movie from the 80s. Imagine if R2-D2 ran on dial-up.

UNIQUENESS: 3

If I wanted to hear similar sounds, there are any number of movies I could watch. In real life, however, there are a lot less opportunities.

RATIONALITY: 3

Machines have made these noises before.
It makes less sense when it happens
without any machines around.

MAGIC: 2

It's science-fiction, not fantasy.

FEAR FACTOR: 2

Nothing scary about R2-D2.

STORYTELLING: 3

Good for a quick laugh and a "isn't that weird?"



HALLUCINATION #5



LITERAL SILVER FOX

[THE ANIMAL] [NOT A MAN]

An ethereal fox made of silver light that ran across the interstate as I was driving to work one morning. Luckily I didn't try to swerve before it ran into the trees out of sight.

UNIQUENESS: 4

Have you ever seen a magical fox creature?
Didn't think so.

HALLUCINAWESOME SCORE