



About the Author - Emily Allen

Arlington High School, Arlington, MA

"Broken Man"



Emily Allen, sixteen, is currently a junior at Arlington High School, where she plays viola in the orchestra.

When she is not studying or practicing, Emily also enjoys drawing and writing, particularly short stories. Her interests include languages, music, and anything from which she can learn.

In her Afterword Emily writes:

"One aspect of the future of renewable energy is the politics and the people that instigate them. It is impossible to address the problem of our energy depletion without the cooperation of world governments and the peoples they represent. Al Newman, a lobbyist, represents a man who works for a major ethanol producer. From the beginning of the story, Al seems like a genuine and honest character. Later, it becomes apparent that his plan is idealistic, and that it also has side effects on the environment.

I was interested not only in energy solutions while writing, but the effect that people and politics had on them. I feel that these elements of change are not often addressed, although they are the cornerstone of improvement of our world.

The main theme of the story, however, was the fear that the people of America, if not the world, associate with energy loss and global warming, among other things. As a school student, [in the story] James Harrington represents a good number of people that do not want to face these problems because [they do not see] ways to deal with them here and now. The future is not apparent to them.

I would like to think that the story is an analysis of culture rather than a criticism of political views. It is not useful to criticize others but to guide them. Al, unable to convince many of such people of ethanol's perfection, is eventually shot down by his own reflection on the subject."