In Which I Create the Attar of My Double

By Jared Lynch

I got my tattoo on my eighteenth birthday, here in Munice. I was from Columbia City, near Ft. Wayne, but my sister lives in Munice and I was visiting her while my mother and stepfather were in Brownsburg. My brother-in-law took me to get the tattoo at Old Skool Tattoos on Wheeling (it's no longer there). I had decided upon a Ralph Steadman illustration from For ad Loathing in Las Vegas. I brought the novel in with me and the tattoo artist scanned the illustration, printed it andCrime so many times that it had been printed on was the template for a temporary tattoo, laid it on my forearm. I said, "It looks good!"

He proceeded. I watched the needle of the gun bite at my skin and bite again and again. I counted for The Tooth moved fast, but if I made a sound he would have known. The figure of the tattoo inhabited existence on the canvas, alone in the landscape. The figure is a man sitting at a bar, drinking whiskey on the rocks, gambling, smoking a cigar. When it was finished its goddamn buttocks gave me a laugh. "This is fantastic!"

Later that night when my mother and stepfather picked me up she expressed mild surprise that I had gotten a tattoo. I hadn't told her I was planning on getting one. She said, "It's your body."

Naturally, inquisitions pursued among my peers. What does it mean? What does it mean?

I always replied, "I really like the illustration, and I really like the novel. I just like it."

I've developed a deeper understanding of the tattoo. The
Figure symbolizes a central theme of the novel: searching for the American Dream, the lustful hungering for the outreach of vices and stimulation. The illustration also symbolizes Gonzo journalism because it is from Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, which is a novel filtered through pure, raw Gonzo journalism. It symbolizes the grey area in which image becomes text. Although I have refined (somewhat) my interpretation of my tattoo, I understand that its meaning does not give it power. The tattoo allowed me to reinvent myself; I created a double of myself, set my own course, removed my future path from my past character. The tattoo marked the dawn of purer independence. It was a physical marking of transition. It's being is its meaning. Is what does it mean? What does it mean? It doesn't matter. It is its meaning. It's being is its meaning.