

Second Place (tie)
Division II – Writing

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“Deception’s Game”

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773 words

Deception's Game

Master of manipulation and trickery, Deception's sleight of hand,
Sends souls of sorrow and suffering into peaceful freedom.
The power of fire sets them free.
Burning coals begin in the mind.
The mind.

Anger and Frustration sit at the table,
Stepping up to play the dangerous game.
Put their cards into play.
Deception cheats the game, dealing into Discrimination and Apathy's greedy, tortured
hands.
Anger and Frustration no longer have a role,
No longer in control.

The dealer, Deception blows smoke, clouding vision and values.
He lights the match that causes things to crash and burn.
Chips on the table—the lives at stake.
Here he only brought humans to die and burn.
Taken by ash.

Deception runs wildly through the mind.
Like the hungry wolf to a girl dressed in red,
He attracts her to him.
Makes her see dreams she has never envisioned.
Dreams of power, glory, a nation above all others.
Makes her see a perfect world of peace and joy,
Not all the empty promises that lie below the surface
Waiting for the perfect moment to appear.
In an instant, the girl dressed in red—a tossed chip on the table,
Manipulated by Deception to force his wished outcome.

Deception makes the ordinary feel like they can become extraordinary.
Deception transforms the good into evil.
He makes the bad hand seem like the unbeatable best.
When the good discovers what they have become, it's too late.
Too late to put the cards back in the deck.
Too late to change the outcome.
Too late to bring them back.

Too late to save them from being taken by the ash.

Deception puts power in Discrimination's chip.

He searches to find a worthy target of his selfish desires.

They are chosen and called the evildoers.

"The Jews are to blame!"

Derogatory stereotypes, biased remarks, hate-based prejudice.

Discrimination named it anti-semitism.

With a large following, he can use and abuse.

He stalks like a tiger, hunting an innocent prey.

Deception holds back Discrimination for one thousand, nine hundred, thirty rounds.

Now three, four plays.

Decisions based on power, not logic.

They are the prey. They are attacked. They are gone.

Now it is Apathy's turn to play.

Deception uses Apathy as a disguise that everything is okay.

There is nothing wrong. There is nothing wrong. There is nothing wrong.

Except it is all wrong. All wrong. All wrong.

Horrific Cruelty is only one of the many torturous cards placed on the table.

Violence. Violence. Violence.

And then silence.

They are taken by the ash.

Five, six, seven, eight, nine moves of barbaric savagery.

Deception has waited one thousand, nine hundred, forty rounds to unleash its deepest, darkest brutality that no one dares to accept.

One. Two. Three. Four. Five.

Ten long, torturous, murderous, heartless, mindless plays.

Six, zero zero zero, zero zero zero.

They are taken by the ash.

Mutilated, butchered, lacerated, dismembered.

A body of skin, flesh, and blood; A body of innocent people.

Ripped to shreds.

Finally the true gamekeeper, Hope, appears.

She is ready for combat.

Deception runs away with Discrimination and Apathy.

The hosts of Deception are caught, forced away and executed for crimes.

However, the real monster gets away.

And he exists everywhere.

Denial now plays the game.

We all are in Denial's devious hands.
Humanity can be harmful but none expected it to be so incredibly devilish.

Deception's game never ends.
It exists like him, everywhere at every time in everything.
Deception will pry and crawl into every single person's mind,
Just like a fly that leaves maggots everywhere it goes.
Deception is the evil sower that plants ideas of evil into thoughts and emotions.
Deception is the manipulator of his treacherous game.

However, there is a hidden weapon against Deception and his tricks.
Hope, the gamekeeper, and Love, the rule maker.
Hope gives us the true vision of a utopia that can exist.
It does not tell lies like Deception's mirage.
And Love.
Love trumps all else.
Love is the victory that saves us from everything.
From every evil, cruelty, and devil in this world and the next.
Love saves us.
Now we must wield it.
Not as a harmful weapon that destroys, but as a peacekeeper that creates.
Not as a ruiner but a maker of life.
Love enacts the rules of the game to keep order.
Love will end Deception's game.

While Hope and Love can stop the flow of the game,
They cannot put the cards back in the deck.
Forewarning to all who wish to partake:
Never underestimate him and his false hand.
Never pick up the deck or deal the cards.
Never enter Deception's game.

Citations

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