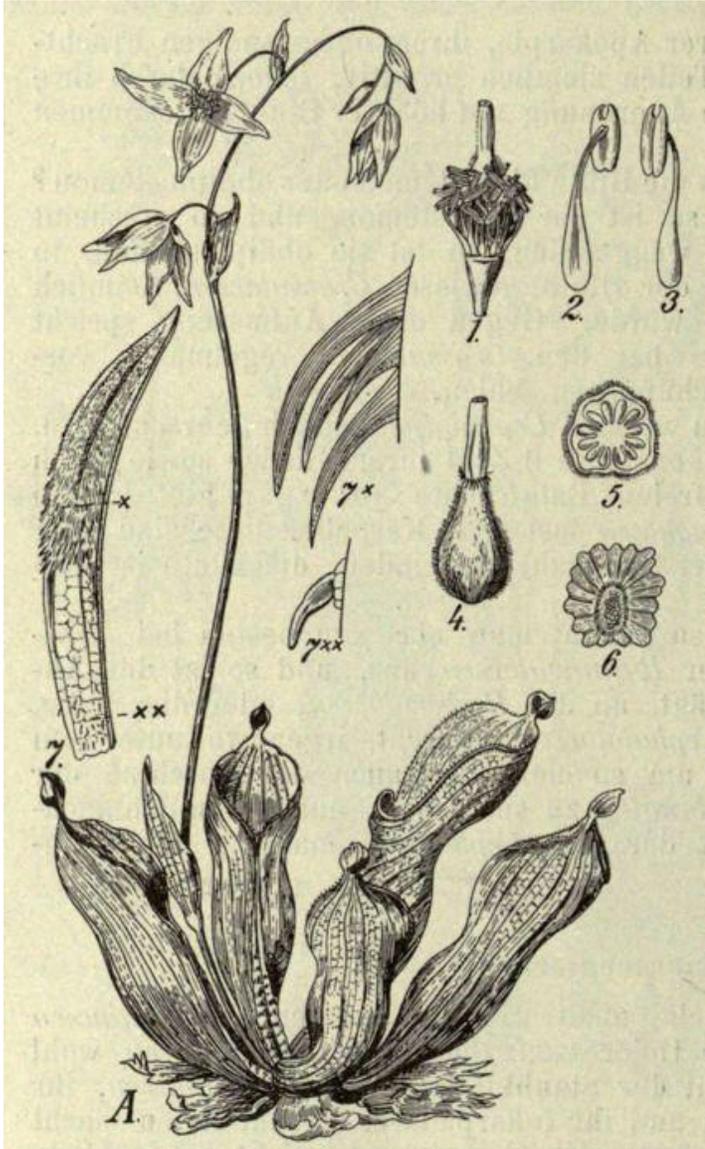


Portraits of Them (Us)

A. Carnivore



1. It is true that sleep can wake one from dream, part blood from vein with oxygen.
2. Her, she is the worn path in the carpet, femur, tibia, scapula perfect for pacing; footprints in marrow the color of ripened mud.
3. Him, he is the child that grieves skin folds and lullabies, watching the mother pace empty armed.
4. Them, they are the vessel that controls the tides, sinks at shore.
5. Spherical breath could be said to be obsolete.
6. Inhalation takes up space, conquerors oxygen.
7. Exhalation is a sticky trap cloaked in truth.

7x. See how his breath wavers in the sunrise?

7xx. But what of blind mice?