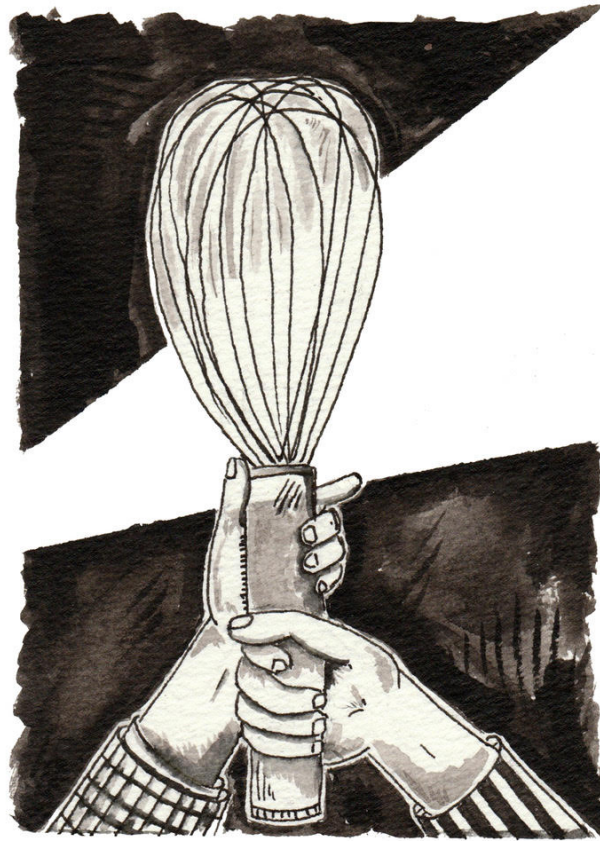


SAMPLE PAGES

DARKNESS IN THE NIGHT



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Bob and Dave arrive in the deserted house

BOB So, this is the place huh?

DAVE Yes. This is the place.

BOB Bit dark isn't it.

DAVE It's a deserted house, in the middle of nowhere, at night. Yes, it's a bit dark.

BOB Just saying. What are we here for anyway?

DAVE I can't tell you.

BOB Right. Right. So why are we here?

DAVE I just told you I can't tell you.

BOB How?

DAVE You asked and I told you I couldn't.

BOB Well how did you do that?

DAVE What?

BOB Tell me you couldn't if you couldn't.

DAVE Because I can't and that's why I couldn't and I told you that when I didn't tell you.

BOB But you can't tell me.

DAVE Exactly.

BOB Well you didn't tell me then.

DAVE Yes I did.

BOB But you couldn't when you did so you didn't because you couldn't when you did.

DAVE But I did when I didn't.

BOB And so you didn't when you did.

DAVE No! I did when I didn't.

BOB But you didn't.

DAVE Did.

BOB Did you?

DAVE No.

BOB Well that's my point.

DAVE That's my point. I told you already when I didn't tell you that I didn't tell you when I told you I didn't tell you because I did tell you I didn't so I did.

BOB slowly works it out.

BOB You didn't.

DAVE Right, right. Fine, I was trying to protect you from the dread truth of the situation but no, you want to know why we're here? Okay, here it is. Within these walls, there is a door.

BOB Probably more than one.

DAVE A special door, a door that is more than a door.

BOB Like, two doors then?

DAVE No. Not like that at all. This is a door of dark import. A door of arcane intangibility that exists at the the threshold of madness and reason.

BOB Oh. That sort.

DAVE The stars are right, the moon is full and you and I my friend, have been drawn here, drawn here like twilight ambassadors of doom, drawn by dark and dire forces of darkness.

BOB Uh huh.

DAVE Dark forces that permeate the very night in inky blackness and pull us toward the door of the twilight shore of the plutonian void beyond the velvet heart of lightlessness.

BOB Okay.

DAVE And beyond that door, that obsidian portal into dusk, lies our fate, bound in unbreakable ebon bonds of black, carved in shadow and veiled in the charcoal depths of the Stygian, fathomless night.

BOB Oh well, yeah, I thought it might be something like that.

DAVE Really? You did?

BOB Yeah. I said it was a bit dark.

DAVE *(Pointing the way)* After you.

Exit DAVE and BOB

Scene 2

A darkened room with a door. Enter KATE and LILY.

LILY Well?

KATE It's a bit dark isn't it?

LILY Deserted house. Middle of nowhere. At night. Of course it's a bit dark. That's why we are here.

KATE Because of the dark?

LILY Because of the not being seen. Dark is good for not being seen. It makes you harder to see.

KATE Hmm. And why are we not being seen? Not that you have to tell me. You're my friend. I trust you. Whatever reason you've got for dragging me out to a cruddy old ruin in the middle of the night is good with me. But, you know, middle of the night, cruddy old ruin, the not being seen. Sort of adds up. Badly.

LILY Okay I'll tell you.

KATE Good.

LILY But you have to promise not to get mad.

KATE Not good. This wouldn't have anything to do with your dark past would it?

LILY Maybe.

KATE Okay, and is this the dark past where you steal stuff or the dark past where you keep setting me up with useless dates?

LILY The first one.

KATE Oh well, that's a relief. I thought for a moment there this was going to be some sort of weird double blind date thing.

LILY God no. Nothing like that. This is just about stealing stuff and rampant kleptomania.

KATE That's okay then. Carry on.

LILY Well, you know how I used to steal stuff and have rampant kleptomania?

KATE Rampant kleptomania which you are now completely over and is completely in the past.

LILY Yes. That one. Well, even though it is completely in the past and I'm totally over it, I sort of, kind of, hung on to a few bits. And pieces. And things.

KATE Sort of hung on?

LILY A bit.

KATE Where?

Both girls look at the door. KATE glares back accusingly. She opens the door slowly and looks inside. She closes the door quickly.

KATE A bit!?

LILY Don't judge me!

KATE Lily!

KATE opens the door again and walks in.

KATE There's tons in here!

LILY It's just a few things! Important things! I couldn't just throw them away. And I said don't judge me.

KATE picks up items and shows them to us, her hand reaching past the door.

KATE *(Brandishing item)* How is this important?

LILY The first thing I ever stole. Couldn't let it go could I. Memories and stuff.

KATE *(Brandishing second item)* And this?

LILY The second thing I ever stole?

KATE *(Brandishing third item)* This?

LILY Memories?

KATE Brandishes fourth item

LILY Stuff?

KATE walks out of closet holding a pair of ridiculous shoes.

KATE You're not over any of this are you? I mean, look at these!

LILY I know what you're thinking, but they're actually really important. The guy I was dating lost his job over them. Couldn't just throw them away could I? They're what give his sacrifice meaning.

KATE You're talking about Dave the metal head moron?

LILY And ex- assistant salesman in Boot-o-rama.

KATE So you got the boots and he got the blame?

LILY Made going out with him really awkward. One of the many reasons I dumped him.

KATE Wow. You're just adorable aren't you.

LILY Well I tried to make it up to him, got him out here pretending this was my old family home and I was going to tell him what I'd done but he just got the idea I was proposing marriage or something and just sort of freaked out and ran off.

KATE Yeah. Great plan, I met him. Kept gushing about your future together and didn't seem to know he was dumped at all. But don't worry, I put him straight.

LILY What did you say?

KATE Just a little white lie to the effect that you weren't around any more. That's all.

LILY And he believed it?

KATE I sort of dressed it up a bit so he'd want to believe it.

LILY Dressed it up?

KATE Don't worry, I know what I'm doing. After all the practice I've had rejecting the string of losers you threw at me I've got pretty convincing.

LILY I was only trying to help you. And they weren't all losers.

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