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Child's Play

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CHILD'S PLAY

BY SELENA COCHRAN

ghastly silence crept in

like high tide in spring. flooding. subduing.

spilling

over echoes of playful banter. *one, two, buckle my shhh---*

until

dread and fear danced blissfully in the throats of ashen's audience

until

panic clamored mercilessly in the womb's of deadened nurturers

mommy, is that gun real?

sleek ebony limbs

glisten majestically in outstretched arms. taunting. preying.

vacillating

betwixt young and old. *eeny, meeny, miny...moe!*

until

agony's joy erupts in thunderous applause

until

ire and bliss entwine amidst waning cries for mercy

mommy, you've got ketchup all over your shirt.