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In The Year 2000

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In The Year 2000

Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"Here it is, sir."

Cover Page Footnote

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Jamie had Threatened to Kill Before

*With a baseball bat in the bedroom
as protection none too soon
against his own ghosts and demons
the full glow of the moon,*

*Jamie had threatened to kill before—
Jamie had threatened to kill before—
Jamie chased his father out the kitchen door
when the devil from outside ordered him once more,*

*It was nothing unusual
nothing strange, out of the norm
Jamie had threatened to kill before.*

One day Jamie . . .

DIMITRI MARKOULIS

In the Year 2000

"Here it is, sir."

A man had just entered an extremely large laboratory in a government-sponsored facility.

"Are you sure you got the correct ingredient, Mr. Wells? We can't have any mistakes. This is an extremely crucial point in the solution of the population problem we're facing."

"Yes sir, I understand."

"Good, good," the man mumbled as he put the ingredient in a clear solution. Then he said to his assistant: "Have you notified the proper people?"

"Yes, sir."

"Good, we don't want to be *too* successful," and both men laughed.

"Well, that's it, let's close up now. Have the men get this out. They're expecting it. The water will be shut off for twenty-four hours. When it's turned on, everyone will be thirsty."

They both laughed again as the man put a sticker of a skull and crossbones on several large tanks.

LAURIE COLLINS