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Nightmare of Today

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Abstract

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

"I look around. Blearily searching for something in the darkness. searching for the something I would never be able to see."

Cover Page Footnote

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NIGHTMARE OF TODAY

I look around. Blearily searching for something in the darkness. Searching for the something I would never be able to see.

Standing up, I brush off my knees with careless hands and start walking. Looking behind me unconsciously, I watch a shadow skulk behind the light. Panicking, I realize that I am all alone in an unfamiliar place with my imagination scaring me brainless.

So, like any normal panic system would tell me to do, I run. I don't think I have ever ran as fast as I am now. I look over my shoulder again and choke down a scream, my shadow has become a man. A dark handsome man with lovely locks of darkness.

I bolt forward into a city I don't know, skidding around unfamiliar buildings and signs. I duck into an alley, frantically looking for an exit. Trapped, like a small bird under the paw of a angry tiger.

Pretty eyes I don't know I have scan for possible exits: fence! Using nimble hands and quick legs I scramble up the sharp metal obstruction that was meant to keep me out. I catch myself on the barbed top and dangle hopelessly for a second before I come crashing down on the otherside. Allowing myself a grimace as my hands hit the asphalt, tearing off my precious flesh and ripping my favorites jeans, I look over my shoulder again. Almost triumphantly, defiantly, until I see his pale barren face. I can feel the blood run from my face and my angel from this nightmare smiles mockingly.

A smile that is liquid sin, a sweet unadultered silence that rings on his lips. A cold shiver sings up my spine to mingle with the pain that's swimming there. And before my mind gives conscious consent, the body that might belong to me jumps up to its feet in a spasmodic hurdle to live.

I am running again, towards a bridge I'm not sure I recognize. But I know that if I can cross it, I'll be safe. Safe as a murderer can get. I can get away from the my shadow man, from all of his devouring darkness, MY darkness.

I sprint ahead, dashing onto the safe haven. Smiling to myself, I carry ahead. He could never catch me now. I look behind me with a triumphant grin on my lips, expecting to find the face of my pursuer. But once again I am only met with darkness.

A red light goes on in my mind, and I stop. Looking desperately around I realize I cannot see anything a foot in front of me. A small whimper escapes my lips as I take a step backwards. I hit solid. Whipping around, I throw my hands in front of my body in a mocking position of a fighting stance. I streetlight flickers on. A scream hollows in my throat.

A giant hairless white rat and a monstrous black panther circle around my dark man, and he tips his hat cruelly. I look deep inside his black tone eyes and find that he is someone I know. I take another step back and stumble, my jean clad ass hitting the smooth surface of the bridge I can't even see.

The creature and his pets advance as I scramble backwards like a lopsided crab.

"N-no..." I whisper brokenly as I finally realize what's going to happen.

A blood chuckle is the only reply I get back as my handsome monster extends a bandaged hand. I continue on my backwards scramble hoping to find some sort of escape.

"No!" I repeat looking up at the looming shadow frightenedly. "Please, don't. Don't do this..." I nearly sob, begging as he steps closer still.

My back hits something stiff and my brain jolts awake. My ears prick up and I listen for a sound. I nearly burst into tears when I finally hear running water. Quickly, I stand shakily and press myself into the cool metal of the railing. Running my right hand along the length of it, I feel some sort of sick relief. Anything is better than what he'd do to me. Even...

Perhaps my shadow lover realizes what I am going to do because his face twists into something like terror, or maybe just disgust. His hand flies out of his coat rapidly and snatches my left arm roughly. I can feel his dirty nails ripping at my skin. But it's already too late for regrets.

One foot on the rail, and the other on the ground, I wrench my arm free and push off the bridge. Hands spread out like the wings I dreamed of owning, I throw myself over the edge.

The sensation is perfect. Trapped in midair for one fleeting second is enough to make me love all over again. One perfect second of ecstasy, and I can forget what lies below. A sick smile graces my lips and I feel like I'm not so alone. I can forgive the fall; I can even forgive my shadow. But not myself.

As I look over my shoulder one last time, I selfishly smile at my shadow lover. MY lover, my once in a lifetime soulmate. I catch the last glimpse of his face, but his expression has changed. Funny, he looks hurt. I toss him a haughty glare anyway and watch his solemn face disappear. As I smile I tell his deaf ears one last secret...

"Take that."