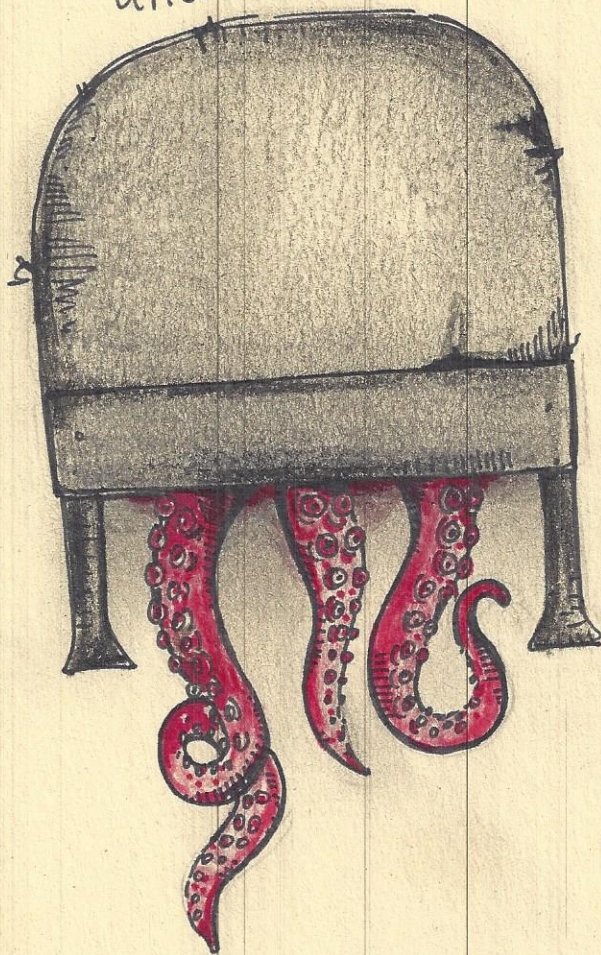


what
lurks
underneath



I have never liked taking the school bus home. My parents are busy working, so I have no choice but to ride it daily.

The buses are worn and dark, sad and gloomy looking. There is rust that seems to outline its once happy yellow exterior.

Slouching my shoulders, almost dragging my backpack I climb up the stairs into its hollow shell.

The only seat available is in the very front.

I don't like this, I'd rather sit in the back and blend in.

I aimlessly glance once more towards the back hoping I missed a vacant seat...

There are no seats available!
I let out a sigh and
reluctantly take a seat
behind the bus driver.

Immediately I notice a
subtle damp smell in the
air. The more I become
aware of it, the more
difficult it becomes to
ignore it!

Suddenly, out of the
corner of my eye I
notice something slither
across the floor.

I let out a gasp, but
no one seems to notice
a thing!

I feel my feet become
cold and wet as I begin
to notice a small pool of
water forming at the
bottom of the bus drivers seat!

Slowly I glance up at the vicer above me, only to see two small round yellow eyes peering at me.

Terrified, I look around me, my classmates are talking and laughing!

Completely oblivious to what is happening to me!

I try to get out of my seat, but am unable to move!

The reflection before me now reveals an eerie, thin sharp toothed grin that seems to stretch out to the corner of its eyes.

Suddenly, from underneath the seat appear long ^{blood red} ~~grey~~ tentacles! They make their way towards my feet and wrap their slimy limbs tightly around my trembling legs pulling me under the dark wet seat!

I am being dragged
down a muddy blind tunnel.
I dig my nails deep into
the moist soil as I
continue to sink deeper!
I look around me, all
I can see are bodies of
children, all with Blank
stares... mouth agape, gasping!
I descent deeper and deeper...
In an instant I hear
a loud thud as I hit
hard at the bottom of
the tunnel.
I succumb to the
darkness around me as
it seems to squeeze
the breath out of me...
I feel I am in a
dreamlike state, and
there I stay.

Flor Chavira

- Happy
- Halloween! -

41 years old ☺

Ariana Montoya

25 (Adult)

Jackie had been down on her luck for a few years now. Ever since her awful cheating, lying ex husband stole everything from her and ran away with his mistress. The night was October 27th it was a crisp chilling walk Jackie went on. Jackie could feel the leaves crunching down under her boots. Jackie stumbled into an unfamiliar neighborhood. A For sale sign caught her eye the house was beautiful. Jackie thought to herself there is no way I will ever be able to afford a home like this. She decided to take a flyer. Her eyes widen and her mouth dropped open almost to the floor. It was 500\$ cheaper than the one-bedroom studio apartment she was living in now since the divorce. One thing that threw Jackie off was an old man who looked like he lived next door staring at her. The old man's eyes never left Jackie. Jackie could feel his creepy beaty eyes until she took a left turn down the street. It was the next morning she woke up and looked at the flyer she had grabbed the night before. Jackie said to herself it is time to move on. Her hands trembled while on the phone with the realtor. Jackie went to meet the realtor. The realtor showed her this amazing home with 4 bedrooms and 3 baths and spacious basement re modeled. Jackie couldn't help it she blurted out and said why is this house so cheap is it because of that creepy man next door? The realtor gave a weird yet warm smile the realtor stated he may seem a little odd however, his wife of 30 years passed away last fall. The realtor looked down and said it was assumed to be a murder. The man's name is Petey he was accused of the awful crime for over 10 plus months. Jackie felt awful and had a sinking feeling in the pit of her stomach. Jackie always felt like she messed up everything and like she was a huge mistake. The realtor said it's okay you didn't know luckily, reporters have started to leave the old man alone sadly, the case is still unsolved, the body was never found. Jackie kept apologizing she felt so bad she knew this home was meant for her. Jackie moved in a week later. Jackie still felt unsettled in her new home also a little scared from the chilling fact about Petey's wife. Petey would just blanky stare into Jackie's new home. Jackie felt so scared and alone all she wanted was company just not like this. Jackie had decided to call it in an early night she didn't have much left so unpacking wasn't very hard. BOOM! BANG! She heard a loud noise coming from downstairs. She woke up frantic and full of fear she ran down the stairs screaming. Yet, nothing and no one was there. Everything was fine she thought stop scaring yourself Jackie she mumbled. Exhausted and overwhelmed she stumbled up to bed. 3 am hit Jackie was finally sleeping soundly until she was rudely awakened. This time by someone running their fingers threw her hair. Jackie was mortified to open her eyes. When her eyes opened no one was there again. This was getting to be way to frustrating for her and becoming to much for her to handle. Poor Jackie went through this for weeks and weeks nothing was making these odd things stop. Petey was starting to act more and more strange by the minute. Jackie knew Petey must have been breaking into her house late at night and creeping around while she tried to sleep. Jackie thought maybe he was just lonely and needed a friend. So, she marched

over and said Hi Petey I am your new neighbor Jackie. Petey looked shocked he looked at Jackie and said Hello young lady it is nice to meet you. Jackie looked baffled she replied same to you Mr. Petey if you ever need anything at anytime let me know. Petey grinned and said thank you it has been such a long time since someone has been so kind to me. Jackie went back home, the strange and unusual things worsened. Jackie was beyond heated by all of this she thought maybe the house was haunted. She never believed in ghosts before however she was becoming desperate for answers. Jackie had a plan to stay up with her camera and put a decoy of herself in bed. The decoy consisted of a wig that had long brown hair with a bunch of blankets all lumped onto each other. Jackie heard a loud noise going into her room it sounded like a knife dragging against the wall. Jackie peeked over into the hall right by her bedroom. Jackie's heart stopped she felt like she was going to pass out onto the floor or never wake again. Someone was in her home. Trying to find her to hurt her or do something far more sinister. This was not Petey it was an older woman. Jackie screamed at the top of her lungs help someone is in my home. Please come quick this is not joke help me please! Petey came and was ringing the bell over and over. Jackie bolted towards the door. Petey ran up the stairs as fast as he could and screamed Margret. What in the world is going on here? Petey screamed call 911 now Jackie call fast. Run to my house lock the doors and no matter what you do make sure you do not leave. Jackie ran called the police and heard the cops pulling up to her home. Margret said she had faked her own death that's why they never found a body. Margret was sure they were going to lock Petey up for good and then she could move back into her old house and never see him again. When they didn't Margret had to think quickly and that's when she seen the house for sale. Jackie looked so shocked she said why would you do this? Margret gave the creepiest smile and said this is what happens when your husband keeps cheating on you until you lose your mind. Jackie looked at Margret with so much sympathy. Jackie could feel something in her she has never felt before. It was like a force field. It was so evil and demented and yet felt so right. Margret went to jail that night, however that is not where the chaos ended. Jackie that night went out looking for cheating husbands up to no good. Jackie didn't feel it was the right time to take on revenge the mood wasn't up to par. That following Halloween Jackie knew this was the time to kill and follow her heart. Jackie went to the old neighbor she slaughtered him and wiped his blood all over her face. Next stop Jackie headed to be a town over to her ex-husbands. Jackie snuck up in the house and grabbed a sledgehammer and shattered every piece of his skull. His brains looked like raw hamburger meat splatter from the floor to the roof. Jackie then headed over to the jail she tip toed and snuck her way in. Jackie handed Margret a costume then they headed off. All night the two gals went out slashing and slaughtering those not innocent men. The duo laughed and grinned while blood was dripping on them. Margret smirked and said I am so glad I didn't murder you that night. I knew you had potential sweetheart. Ever since then the duo has been killing and torturing men Halloween after Halloween. They have no idea how the two never got caught. Some say the duo kills any cop who tries to come after them. Jackie and Margret still lurk in the shadows so remember this spooky Halloween season to never cheat. If you as much as look in another women's way while you have a ring on your finger you will be dead, and your body parts will be scattered by November 1st.



Security Public Scary Story Contest

2 messages

Ash Montoya?

To: spl@wsd3.org

Sun, Oct 24, 2021 at 4:02 PM

My Name is Ashley Montoya. I am 30 years old and this is my entry 1,143 words. The title is "Crimson Betrayal."

She looked up and noticed out of the corner of her eye, The tall fair skinned stranger, with the lengthy brown dark hair as the reflection of the moon bounced off his hair as he drank the same whiskey neat he had ordered every night this week at the same time every night at 9:00 PM Sharp. Sadie couldn't help but feel a weird feeling when she looked at the stranger. Distracted, she had suddenly forgotten the bar gate was closed and dropped the bucket of dirty silverware she was holding, after she was done cleaning up she looked and noticed the handsome stranger was gone.

As she suddenly felt the breath of a figure of someone standing right behind her at the tavern where Sadie worked every night to help pay her way through all the loans she took out for college at Connecticut state, turns out being an English major in college didn't exactly make it as easy as you would think to find a job. She started to feel a lump in her throat and a "thump thump" swell in her chest. When the figure grabbed onto her hips and screamed "BOO". With the sudden comfort of a familiar voice, Sadie's earlier anxiety had subsided, as she turned around to face her best friend, and college roommate Sapphyre. Sapphyre or as Sadie liked to call her best friend "Saph" a few weeks earlier had both secured a waitress job for Sadie and an armature bartending job for Saph (she always did seem to have a way of always getting exactly what she wanted, even if that meant lack of experience in bartending.) "I wouldn't think about it if I was you?" Sadie looked at her best friend confused "I am not sure what you are talking about?" Sapphyre looked at her best friend with a knowing look "Well Stunning Stranger over there is the new owner of this tavern. Michael Thero" Sadie responded "Hmm some upgrade compared to Mr.Conley." Sadie said thinking back to the previous owner who had hired them a few weeks earlier at the start of fall and how the handsome stranger had a different last name. "Why did Mr.Conley leave anyway? Isn't this like his family's legacy or whatever? I mean it is called the Conley tavern after all." Sapphyre rolled her eyes well "What do you suspect happened then Sades? That Mr.Conley was abducted by aliens, or vampires wanted to suck his blood?" Sadie sighed to herself the little Connecticut town that they moved into this summer after college has been notoriously spreading rumors about the existence of vampires in the town. Sadie thought to herself just your typical small town trying to get into the Halloween spirit by spooking newcomers to their beloved town. Sadie rolled her eyes "Ugh whatever you get way to into Halloween every year! Yet when the time comes to hang out with me on your weirdo super bowl of a holiday your always busy" Said Sadie who cant stop but thinking how her bestfriend is so obsessed with Halloween yet in the 4 years they attended college together and now being the 5th year they have known each other they had never spent a single Halloween night together. Sapphyre grins wildly "Well yeah I can't have you attend my meeting of the weirdos can I?" Oh hush replied Sadie. Sadie inquisitively asked "What are you doing this year anyway?" Sapphyre let out a big sigh "The same visiting dear ole depressed Mommy in the looney bin. Honestly Sapph that's why I don't want to invite you who wants to spend Halloween with their bestfriend and their sad Mommy." Sapphyre has always lived in Connecticut whereas Sadie moved here from Poughkeepsie, New York to attend college. As fate would have it Sapphyre and Sadie were roommates and the rest of their best friendship was history.

Saph let Sadie know early on the only family member she has is her mom and she is always in and out of mental health institutions due to her struggles with delusions due to schizophrenia. At one point Sadie found out Sapphyre's Mom was convinced for two years That Saph was trying to kill her mom. Sadie would often think to herself Sapphyre could be kind of a loose cannon but she could never hurt anyone she loved. Finally her best friend broke Sadie's thoughts. "Anyway lady I better get going, If I want to make the looney bin before the teenagers try to sneak in for a holiday thrill." Saph waved bye to her friend as she grabbed her leather jacket off the coat rack and walked out the door into a crisp Connecticut fall night.

The stranger from early approached Sadie. "DO you believe in vampires?" Sadie laughed "Oh gosh, don't tell me the locals are trying to scare you off now?" Michael replied "No I am a local." Sadie then said "Oh so you must know Sapph then?" Michael "Yeah lets just say we never mingled in the same crowd." Michael then asked Sadie "What are your plans tonight?" Sadie then said "Well my bestie ditched me again." Michael replied "Shocker." Sadie looked at him disapprovingly "Anyway, what are you doing Mr. Small Town?" Michael replied "I would tell you but first I need to know do you believe in vampires?" Sadie thought hard then looked at Michael firmly and said "No." Michael then said "what if I told you that they exist and that your best friend is one?" Sadie's mouth dropped "What? No way in hell." Come with me

Michael took Sadie down the road and peered into an old closed down diner's windows and that's when Sadie saw the unthinkable. Her best friend did not look like she got down visiting her mom in the looney bin, She instead looked like she was dressed for a night on the town as she was straddling and making out with a guy when all of a sudden Sadie observed her best friend sunk her pointy sharp teeth into her date err I guess victims neck. Sadie turned around "Michael why you show me---" Just then Michael used a razor blade in his pocket to cut Sadie's neck. "Michael, your one?" I am sorry Sadie. I am a vampire hunter. It's always best to know who someone truly is. Just then as Michael let Sadie drop to the ground she hit her head, when Sadie opened her eyes 10 mins later, She awoke to her best friend standing above her. Sadie panickily said " Oh Saph I had the worst nightmare." Just then Sapphyre opened her mouth and revealed her sharp teeth then sunk them into her bestfriends bleeding neck and didn't stop feeding until Sadie could no longer make out the world everything just faded to black.

The end

Library, Security Public <spl@wsd3.org>

Mon, Oct 25, 2021 at 8:46 AM

To: Ash Montoya

Thank you for your submission Ashley! We look forward to reading it. Winners will be notified by November 15th. Good luck!

[Quoted text hidden]

Scary Story Contest Submission – this story was originally written by me as a third grader in 1970. It has been updated in 2021, as an adult, to be enjoyed by young readers.

Writer Category – Adult

Name – Dawnine Hillman

The Owl in the Oak

Chapter 1

The Disappearing Owl

One night, young Macy Robinson was sitting on her bed, wondering what to do about her missing jewelry. There had been robberies all over town, and her house had been broken into and her jewelry stolen. Some of the things were from her mother, who died when Macy was a little girl. Suddenly she heard an owl cry out "in the oak, in the oak, over there!" Macy knew there was a magic talking owl in the woods. Was he in danger? There was only one way to find out. She went and got her detective kit to check for owl footprints and the brown haired detective found mechanical footprints. He was a robot and not the genuine talking owl!

Macy realized that someone must have found the magic owl. Maybe he was in the wrong hands, maybe even in danger or dying. She had to find him! Macy should have waited for her dad, a police officer, but she went from tree to tree trying to find the owl. There was not a single sign of him, not even an owl feather. While she was searching the fourth tree, Macy heard some footsteps and all of a sudden, she got hit on the head and everything went dark.

Chapter 2

Locked Up

When Macy came to, she saw the awful looking person who she knew to be an escaped jewel thief from seeing posters around town. The posters said his name was Roger Holt and he had stolen jewelry all over the state. "Being nosy, Miss Robinson?" he snickered. "How did you know my name?" asked Macy. "I stole that jewelry", he growled, "and I heard your housekeeper say your name when I was in the house." He continued, "Now you are going where that talking owl is that you were prowling around looking for". The thief looked back "You better get used to two slices of bread and a glass of water every twelve hours, missy", he sneered. Even though she was scared, Macy was glad he hadn't hurt Mildred, her housekeeper, when he robbed the house.

She saw the owl robot that he had tricked her with. It was chattering away, repeating the same thing "owl in the oak, owl in the oak". "See my robot", Holt taunted her, "it fooled you". Here we are with the real owl, hidden in a hollow oak tree. "Miss junior detective aren't you sorry you went snooping?" Holt said cruelly. "No", Macy said, "you're going to get caught", she threatened. "Too bad you won't be the one to do it, because you won't get out of this tree until I make my escape and that won't be for a while, so get in the tree", he snarled.

Macy tried to make a run for it, but the thief was too fast. "No more funny tricks, he said as he roughly grabbed her arm. See you later with some food for you and your precious talking owl." The thief didn't know it, but Mary had some cooked canned ham and jars of grape juice with her in her detective kit. As he put a heavy metal cover over the top of the tree, the only light in the hollow tree was the dim light of her flashlight and one of the batteries had just gone dead.

Chapter 3

Feeding the Owl

Macy searched her pockets to see if she had any new batteries. There was no sign of anything else that could help her. The talking owl was happy to see her, he sputtered: "I was trying to call out that the thief was hiding in the woods and he grabbed me. Let's get out of here". "We can't climb out, it's too high, and you can't fly out because of the metal cover", Macy explained. "At least I have food to share, we don't have to wait for that horrible Holt to come back" she told the magic owl.

The owl said he would like some grape juice and ham. He was tired of living on bread and water while he was hidden away in the tree. Macy shared a slice of ham and they both sipped some grape juice. As soon as they had finished their hidden food, they sensed an evil presence. There stood the criminal, Holt, staring in the top of the tree.

Chapter 4

Safe

Holt reached down with his dirty, hard, cold hands and took the owl. He growled "this talking owl will make me even more money than stolen jewels". As the top was off the hollow tree, Macy screamed "Mildred, Mildred" as loud as she could. Her housekeeper heard and came running, followed by her father and other police who were out looking for her. They caught the robber, took the magic talking owl from him and rescued Macy from the hollow tree.

Macy was so happy to be home safe, the owl was free to live in the forest, talking and keeping people company, and the robber went back to jail. On nice days, Macy still goes out in the forest behind her house with extra ham and juice and shares it with the owl. She just makes sure to tell Mildred or her father where she is going first.