

Dancing In Darkness

By

Christopher M. Pope

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+1(248)-705-5491  
chrispope4678@gmail.com  
6940 Oakhurst Ridge Road  
Clarkston, MI, 48348

Night has begun to bestow its infernal blessing of the darkness on this warm, summer night. AMY STEVIA (20) sits amongst her peers, huddled around a campfire. She is having a conversation with her good friend PETER SEMMÉ (21), who is in the process of digesting a rather tasty s'more dessert.

PETER

Say, Amy, you were housed in an insane asylum, how's about you share a wicked story?

AMY

Gee, thanks, asshole, it was an institution for mentally disabled kids.

PETER

Same thing?

AMY

Hardly.

PETER

Have you ever experienced anything...Paranormal?

AMY

Yes. A few. One is troubling. It began when I was 15 years old when I was at Brocker's.

FLASHBACK TO:

As the sight of the golden sun rises into the air, DR. KELLY FITZPATRICK (34) stares off into the sunrise through a dirty, broken window. She's dressed in the work required uniform: consisting of a white face mask, a small nurse's cap and a short white dress inked with the red Brocker's logo.

Her hair consists almost entirely of a light blonde color, polluted with some dirty brown. She hasn't showered in a week, and her soiled appearance makes this quite obvious.

She leans on the window sill, still observing the radiant beauty of the morning's gleam. From behind her, Amy taps her on the shoulder, spinning the nurse around; grabbing her complete and utter attention.

(CONTINUED)

Kelly studies Amy's choice of outfit for today, a monkey pajama outfit, with a matching long sleeve, cozy pants, and the standard issue slippers that are given to all patients. Her hair is short and frizzled a morbid dark color; Amy does her best to manage the mess that it is, and smiles innocently at Kelly.

KELLY

Well, good morning there, Amy. How may I be of assistance?

AMY

I need to go number 1.

KELLY

What of the whereabouts of Jackie? I'm much too busy to attend with you in the restroom.

AMY

She's with the others. Please? I'll be hasty.

KELLY

As swift as possible?

AMY

With great urgency, yes ma'am!

Without uttering another word, Kelly extends her hand to Amy's, latching tightly to her small white hand. They begin to make their way down the hallway towards the restrooms.

3 INT. BROCKER'S MENTAL HOSPITAL - HALLWAY 3

As the two wander off into the hallway, it grows increasingly dark. There are no windows in this part of the facility, so Kelly takes out a small candle from her pocket and lights it. They continue to walk down the hallway until they reach a small door, nestled in between a concrete wall.

4 INT. BROCKER'S MENTAL HOSPITAL - BATHROOM DOOR 4

KELLY

Right, in you go, darling.

Amy pops herself inside the bathroom, shortly after taking the candle from Kelly. She closes the door behind her, and Kelly waits patiently outside the door for her to finish.

In a desperate means to pass the time, Kelly gazes at her surroundings, hoping that the other nurses won't catch a glimpse of her helping out a patient without the proper qualifications.

(CONTINUED)

Another worker of the hospital appears from in front of Kelly, exiting through a large metal door. LARRY BREITLING (45) is the hospital janitor, as he manages to transport a large metal bucket filled with polluted water and oil soap.

His hair is thick and scruffy; his eyes dark and alert. He sees Kelly and tries to make friendly conversation with her whilst he can.

LARRY

Good morning, Madam!

Startled by his sudden entrance, she shrieks and jerks her body in fright. Once she realizes that it's just Larry, she sighs in relief.

KELLY

I'm awfully sorry about that. But a good morning to you too, sir.

LARRY

How are you liking the job?

KELLY

It's certainly taking its weight on me. I am starting to have a huge heart for some of these kids.

LARRY

You mean, "patients?"

KELLY

I beg to differ. They don't deserve to be treated as such. They-

LARRY

Are aberrations. Little devious monsters. Oddities of society. They don't even deserve what they're getting in here as far as I'm concerned.

(smiling)

They should be humbly grateful they get such satisfactory treatment from a sexy woman like you.

KELLY

You should probably get back to work, sir.

LARRY

Please, it's Larry. And you too, madam.

(CONTINUED)

Larry walks away from the nurse, trailing his mop and bucket behind him as he disappears into the shadows of the hospital.

Kelly turns around to the bathroom and sees that Amy is standing erect, staring at her with wide, teary eyes. Kelly senses what is going to happen next and crouches down to tend to Amy.

KELLY

I trust you didn't mean to overhear  
that whole thing?

Amy remains silent.

KELLY

Let's be on our way, shall we?

Kelly grabs Amy's hand, and they begin to trot down the hallway back to the bedrooms.

5

INT. BROCKER'S MENTAL HOSPITAL - AMY'S BEDROOM

5

Amy lays sound asleep on her shoddy mattress, wrestling with her thin rags to shelter herself from the barren cold air that lurks throughout the bedroom. Sharing the room with her is her roommate JACKIE LEE (14), who also lays dormant.

Jackie is an unusual character, one of the weirder child patients in the facility. She has long, black hair, the kind that covers her eyes and face almost completely.

She has worn the same outfit since she has come: a one-piece tight-fitting garment that she calls a onesie. It's decorated in letters of the alphabet.

Amy soon awakens from a hellish nightmare. As she sits up, she softly whimpers to herself; trying to not remember her terrifying dream. She peers over at Jackie, who is still sleeping. Amy steps out of her bed to wake Jackie.

AMY

(tapping Jackie's shoulder)  
Jackie, I'm sorry to wake you, but  
I need to go to the bathroom.

Jackie immediately opens her eyes and shoots her head around to meet Amy's eyes. She giggles softly and jumps off the bed, not saying one word.

Amy hands Jackie half a candle, and Jackie lights it right away using a small lighter she stole from one of the nurses.

They walk out of the bedroom.

6 INT. BROCKER'S MENTAL HOSPITAL - HALLWAY 6

Amy and Jackie venture down the same hallway that she and Ms. Kelly walked down earlier that day. Jackie walks in front of Amy down the long, dark hallway.

Jackie begins to act unusual, she begins to dance in a rather abnormal fashion. She flails her arms and cackles to herself quietly. She continues to laugh and sashay down the hallway, while so engulfed in the darkness that Amy can hardly see her.

Amy hears the bangles clanking and the bells on Jackie's ankles jingling softly. Although she is too tired to match erratic arm movements with Jackie, she does her best to cheer herself up by dancing with her.

She clumsily moves her hips and feet with Jackie's. Jackie doesn't speak the rest of the way down to the bathroom, but instead laughs and dances compulsively.

7 INT. BROCKER'S MENTAL HOSPITAL - AMY'S BEDROOM 7

The morning soon after, Amy awakens to the sound of men in her room. The men in the room surround Jackie's bed, and Amy bolts up and out of her bed ready to protect her friend. She realizes that they are administrators of the hospital, and she peers closer at Jackie's body.

She lays lifeless, her eyes wide open; blankly gazing at Amy's bed with a hideous smile on her face.

8 INT. WOODS - CAMPFIRE - MIDNIGHT 8

AMY

Suicide. Her time of death was  
11:30 p.m. Nearly 5 hours before I  
woke her.

CUT TO BLACK

THE END.