

MONSTER

Written by

XOXO

Copyright 2021

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER FIELD - NIGHT

Several female soccer players file off the pitch. Dirty, stained uniforms. Sweat drips off their bodies.

CALLIE, 16, short of stature and plain looking, walks a few steps behind two seniors, SOPHIE, and TANYA, both 18. Callie's eyes are drawn to Sophie's long, tanned legs.

As her eyes move up Sophie's body, she's embarrassed as another girl, KACIE, passes by and notices the ogling.

KACIE

Think she's hot, Callie? God, you're sick.

Callie tries to look away as Sophie and Tanya turn in her direction, but it doesn't help. Tanya gives Callie a death stare as she rushes away. Sophie seems flattered.

SOPHIE

Callie, it's okay!

But Callie moves quickly away without looking back.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Callie walks along an unlit street. Dark clouds obscure any night light. She dabs at her eyes, wiping away tears, still hurt at being called out.

She's startled by a NOISE behind her. Fifty yards behind is a SHADOWY FIGURE. Callie squints, but can't make out anything. She moves quickly away, and the Figure follows.

There's now an urgency in Callie's step. She looks over her shoulder and the figure continues to trail her step for step.

CALLIE

Go away! Leave me alone!

Callie breaks out in a sprint but the shadow sticks right with her. No matter how fast Callie runs, she can't create any distance between the two of them.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Callie reaches the front steps of her home. She rushes inside and locks the door behind, then bounds up the steps to her bedroom. She calls for her parents but there's no answer.

A door CREAKS. Footsteps on the stairs.

Callie retreats to her closet and hides in the dark behind a row of clothes.

She stabs at her cellphone, but the screen indicates there's no service.

Callie mutters a curse word as she hears the door to her bedroom open. She waits breathlessly. The steps have ceased.

SUDDENLY -- the door flings open! Callie SCREAMS and backs against the wall.

But then the closet light flicks on, and it's -- CALLIE. Her doppelganger stands, arms crossed, opposite her.

DOPPLEGANGER CALLIE
A bit of cliché, don't you think?

The doppelganger leans against the door jam. Very chill.

DOPPLEGANGER CALLIE (CONT'D)
Look, I get it, okay? You don't want anyone to know who you really are, and that's okay. You're already judged enough in high school for all sorts of crap. But being in high school and being gay? Sometimes that's scarier than any monsters under the bed... or in the closet, so to speak. But you and I know what you really are.

Callie slumps down on the floor and sits.

DOPPLEGANGER CALLIE (CONT'D)
You're a great person with a great life ahead of you. Screw the Tanya's and Kacie's of this world. They don't matter. All that matters is what you think about yourself. So pick yourself up and get out of here. Oh, but only when you're ready, because that's for you and you alone to decide.

Doppelganger Callie steps out of the closet. Peers back in.

DOPPLEGANGER CALLIE (CONT'D)
By the way? You're not a monster. You're just... you. And that should be good enough.

FADE OUT.