

Untitled

by Ellie Deutscher, age 11, Port Moody

Caris had NEVER been afraid of the dark. It was just one of those things that she could not explain. Maybe it was just because she had a hard time falling asleep, and over time she adjusted. One night, she had been lying in bed, like every other night, when she realized that in the sky above her, a beautiful blood moon shone, casting its glory on the land. As a ray of the moon's glow shone on her pillow, she was thinking of a VERY random thing. 'I wonder what would happen if I could detach my shadow from my body,' she thought. And that night, something strange happened. The eerie blood moon heard her question. It heard her question and somehow felt inclined to answer.

The next night, she was lying in bed staring at the ceiling, when she had the unnerving feeling that someone-or something- was watching her. Her shadow-her own shadow-began to dance around the room. A voice started to speak... "play... with... me... play..." It was just a whisper, but it echoed around her thoughts. "Play..."

The wind whipped through the trees, causing branches to clatter against the window, like clawed hands scraping at her windowsill. Wait- the window- there was someone-something- staring at her. A face, with ashen skin and bloodshot eyes, staring straight at her. An eerie smile slowly crept across its unearthly face. A shriek escaped from Caris' mouth. She ran across the room and flicked on the light switch. The face disappeared, and her shadow returned to where it was supposed to be. Caris slept with the lights on that night.

It was obvious to Caris' parents that she wasn't getting enough sleep. She had bags under her eyes and would constantly doze off. Of course, her parents thought that she was so tired because she slept with the lights on every night. So, a week later, she was told to sleep with the lights off. Caris tried her best to plead, but her parents insisted. That night, the dark seemed to close in around her, making her feel trapped in the infinite shadows. The voice returned, louder and clearer than ever. "Play... with... me... play with me... now... play with me now..." "NO!" screamed Caris, "LEAVE!" It was pretty obvious that the voice had no intention of leaving. The face appeared. Her shadow danced and danced. She couldn't stand it for a moment longer. "FINE"! I'LL PLAY IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT!!!" The face's eerie smile vanished and was replaced by a grim expression. "Follow me," The voice said. The face disappeared. Caris' shadow crept outside. Caris followed it into the bone-numbingly cold forest where all the shadows seemed to be watching her, as if they knew that she was walking to her doom. That was the last anyone saw of her. Wandering into the frigid woods in the dead of night. If you listen closely, you can still hear her terrified shrieks echoing through the streets.
